

4,700 dead in Pakistan earthquake

The death toll from the earthquake which struck northern Pakistan on Saturday rose to 4,700 yesterday as Army rescue teams continued their work in a remote part of the Indus valley. The destruction of nine villages has also left 15,000 injured, many of whom have had to spend a third night in the open in severe cold.

Nine villages razed

While the majority of persons killed belonged to a string of hamlets in the Indus valley, thriving on the river water, it is believed that they also included many men of the Pakistan Army engaged in road building in the remote Karakoram mountain ranges. It is understood that there were also some Chinese in the area, in connection with the construction of the Karakoram highway linking Pakistan and China, and a few of them might also have perished.



A rescue worker carries a child through the rubble of one of the devastated Pakistan villages.

found people who still seemed to be living in the nightmare of the disaster. They were too shocked and dazed even to describe their experiences. The survivors are badly in need of food and protection against the severe cold, and the Army rescue teams are trying to reach them by helicopter.

Much-heralded Brezhnev visit to Middle East called off after Cairo refusal to toe Soviet line

From Edmund Stevens
Moscow, Dec 30
Russia announced today that Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, will not be going to Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad in January as planned. The Russian agency stated tersely that by agreement between Moscow and the Egyptian, Syrian and Iraqi leaders, the visit had been postponed and a new mutually convenient date would be announced later.

Police and government inquiries into Stonehouse affairs

By David Leigh and Michael Horsnell
Police and Department of Trade investigations into Mr John Stonehouse's business and his disappearance were ordered yesterday by the banking side of his London Capital Group.

Directors and workers at Aston Martin bow to events

By Edward Townsend
Business News
Directors of Aston Martin Lagonda, which announced at the weekend that it was to go into voluntary liquidation, had little hope yesterday that the company could be saved.

Government would not grant the loan until agreement with Royston was reached. "It was a chicken-and-egg situation", he added.

Shells fired near Scots trawler

By a Staff Reporter
The owners of a Scottish trawler that escaped from a Danish patrol after a 10-hour chase across the North Sea, in which shells and a depth charge were fired, are to be taken to court, if necessary in absentia, accused of breaching fishing limits, the Danish authorities decided yesterday.

£500,000 art theft from American's Paris flat

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 30
Forty-seven paintings and drawings and a number of art objects were stolen from the Paris flat of Mr Jacques Cartier, an American landscape architect. The theft was discovered on Friday by his wife.

80 musicians to boycott Unesco over Israel

New York, Dec 30—Eighty of the world's leading musicians today gave a pledge to boycott the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization.

US fears force gold price off \$197 1/2 peak

The gold price fell heavily on the London market yesterday after climbing to a record level of \$197 1/2 an ounce at the morning fixing. It closed at \$192, down \$5 on the day.

Mr Benn's EEC letter angers ministers

Mr Benn's letter to constituents attacking Britain's EEC link has angered some ministers. Mr Callaghan, on his return from Africa, will be pressed by those who are Cabinet colleagues to demand an explanation from Mr Benn, and in raise the issue in the Cabinet (our Political Staff writes) Page 2

More school violence

The increase in violence in schools and assaults on teachers over the past three years were absolutely horrifying, the Assistant Masters Association's annual council meeting was told yesterday. One teacher told of an assault on a colleague by a pupil who had been diagnosed as dangerous, although the school was not told Page 3

Libya lifts oil ban

The embargo on oil exports to the United States imposed by Libya 14 months ago has been lifted. No official announcement has been made but oil companies have been told they can resume exports to any destination Page 15

Gallant Amiss hits 90

The fourth day's play in the third Test match between Australia and England ended at Melbourne yesterday with Australia needing 242 runs for victory. Amiss hit a gallant 90 in England's second innings total of 244 and Greig a useful 60. At the close of play Australia were four for no wicket Page 8

Consultants' dispute may affect all doctors

The hospital consultants' contract dispute might involve the whole medical profession, Mr Walpole Levoy, chairman of the council of the British Medical Association, agreed yesterday. He said the onus was on the Government to make fresh proposals with a wish to begin in a new atmosphere Page 2

Extended truce hope

The Government is expected to make a positive political response to the IRA today in order to preserve the ceasefire, which is due to expire at midnight on Thursday. Mr Rees, Secretary of State, said yesterday that he proposed to "take certain steps" to maintain the truce Page 2

Whisky price up

The Price Commission has approved an application by the Distillers company to increase the retail price of a bottle of whisky by at least 6p. Distillers' whiskeys include Haig and Johnnie Walker.

'The Times'

In common with other national daily newspapers, The Times will not be published tomorrow, New Year's Day.

Hong Kong Superflights

Well take more care of you.

British Airways

Home News	2, 3	Engagements	5, 14	Sport	8, 9
Europe News	3	Features	5, 12	TV & Radio	21
Oceania News	7	Letters	13	Theatre, etc	10
Business	15-20	Notes	14	Universities	14
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Crossword	12	Science	14	Wills	14
Diary	12	Service promotions	14		
		Snow Report	8		

HOME NEWS

Mr Callaghan will be pressed to tackle Mr Benn on the EEC

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff Mr Callaghan, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who is in Africa, will come under pressure from some of his Cabinet colleagues to demand an explanation from Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, after the latter's declaration on Sunday that continued membership of the European Community would mean British Britain as a self-governing nation.

There was little doubt yesterday that some ministers were angered by Mr Benn's statement, in a letter to his Bristol constituents. In it he said that continued membership would mean a democratically elected Parliament as the supreme law-making body of the United Kingdom.

Praise for Aston Martin's workers

From Penny Symon Newport Pagnell Two gold-and-green flags fluttered desultorily yesterday over the small, slightly dilapidated mock-Tudor office of Aston Martin, the sports car manufacturer, at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.



Mr Charles Warden, managing director of Aston Martin, outside the factory yesterday.

Mr Warden said later that he was astonished and angry that the Government should let a company like Aston Martin go to the wall. He said that he had made three joint approaches to Mr Benn (Secretary of State for Industry) in the hope that he would come to the factory and see for himself, but he declined.

considerable financial difficulty but had hoped that "something would turn up". One said: "I could see that things were going wrong in September, and anyone who said this has come as a complete shock today must be naive. In the purchasing department we had no money to buy anything."

Hospital dispute may involve all doctors

By John Roper Medical Reporter The dispute over the hospital consultants' contract may soon involve the whole medical profession. When the question of the contract was raised by the chairman of the council of the British Medical Association yesterday, he replied: "Yes, we are fighting for the independence of the profession."

begin to work to contract (311 to 351 hours a week) from next Thursday, the effect will not immediately be apparent. But as most consultants work 50 to 60 hours a week in the National Health Service and are also on call, patients will soon be inconvenienced. Emergency services will be affected, Junior hospital staff up to senior registrar, will do their normal work, Dr Ian McKim Thompson, secretary of the Junior Hospital Staff Group Council, said yesterday. But they would not fill in gaps that consultants left.

Plea to Mr Wilson on signalmen's strike

By Raymond Perman Labour Staff Another 24-hour strike by signalmen is expected to disrupt Eastern region rail services today. British Rail said last night that the strike, due to begin at 6 am, was likely to affect only trains to and from Fenchurch Street station, London. Liverpool Street services were uncertain, but might well run normally.

North Sea safety diving rules

By a Staff Reporter The Department of Energy yesterday announced new safety regulations for an experienced supervisor and at least two divers must remain on the surface on stand-by. A two-compartment compression chamber and a submersible compression chamber must be used for operations below 30 metres, at which depth the use of compressed air is forbidden.

IRA ceasefire extension expected

From Robert Fisk Belfast The Government is almost certain to make a positive political response to the IRA within the next 24 hours, possibly by announcing the release of between 50 and 100 internees in order to preserve the ceasefire, which is due to expire at midnight on Thursday. Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday told leaders of four main churches that he proposed to "take certain steps to maintain the ceasefire which is due to expire at midnight on Thursday."

as mediators between the IRA and the Government. The Rev Harold Sloane, former President of the Methodist Church, questioned repeatedly by reporters, said Mr Rees had told him that he had been thinking of releasing the prisoners during the Christmas period. "He said he had been thinking of taking some steps if this was possible," he said.

Pay formula put to teachers in Scotland

From a Staff Reporter Edinburgh A formula for settling the teachers' pay dispute, which has disrupted education throughout Scotland, was announced in Edinburgh last night. Mr Robert Beattie, leader of the teachers' negotiators on the Scottish teachers' salaries committee, which represents staff and local authorities, said the provisional agreement proposed redistribution of the £41m award to Scottish teachers recommended by the Houghton committee, giving more to the lower paid.

QC heads fire inquiry

Mr K. G. Jupp, QC, is to chair the inquiry into the fire at the Fairfield Home, Edwinton, Nottinghamshire, earlier this month, in which 38 old people died.

Board calls for Stonehouse resignation

Continued from page 1 The Crown Agents said yesterday that the board's policy towards our involvement in secondary banking as a whole, we are instituting an orderly phased withdrawal from this sphere of our activities, and that includes London Capital Securities.

Mr Stonehouse's resignation was accepted by the board of directors of London Capital Securities last night. The board of directors of London Capital Securities has been asked to resign by the Crown Agents, who are in an acute position. Mr Stonehouse is a third, non-executive director.

start a new life in Australia with several questions hanging over him. The thought Mr Cameron had no doubt tried to investigate the matter to the best of his ability, but some of his actions were open to question. Mr Stonehouse had unfinished business in his own country to settle before he should consider emigrating.

£30,000 bank charge

Thomas Edwin Vane-Dunstone, aged 26, unemployed, of no fixed address, was committed in custody for trial at the Central Criminal Court by Marlborough Street Magistrate Court yesterday. He was charged with menacing a woman with money of an Oxford Street bank.

Isle visitors' tax opposed

The Isle of Wight Tourist Board yesterday declared its opposition to a landing tax on visitors. Mr Raymond Sleep, the board's chairman, said the outcome would be "strangulation of the goose that lays the golden eggs".

More radio news

London Broadcasting, the news and information commercial radio station, will increase its news broadcast by more than 15 hours a week from Monday.

44 ewes stolen

Rustlers stole 44 ewes to lamb from Court Farm, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, and Thomas Mills, the owner, said yesterday that they left him only six animals.

Four players tie for lead in Hastings chess

From Harry Golombek Chess Correspondent Some lively play in round 3 of the premier tournament in the Hastings Chess Congress resulted yesterday in a temporary quadruple tie for the leading place among Belavsky, G. Garcia, Hartston and Hort, all of whom have two points. But they should be passed by Ulf Andersson, who has an adjourned game against the young American, Mark Diesen, which looks won for the Swedish grandmaster.

Weather forecast and recordings

Weather forecast and recordings section containing two maps of the British Isles showing pressure systems and weather patterns. Below the maps are tables for 'Today' and 'Tomorrow' weather forecasts, including sun rises, moon sets, and wind directions. It also includes a 'Typhoid appeal' and 'QC heads fire inquiry' sub-sections.

'No consultation' complaint on air route changes

By Arthur Reed Air Correspondent The Civil Aviation Authority for a lack of "meaningful consultations" with local authorities and amenity bodies before announcing a decision to change departure routes from Heathrow airport was made yesterday by the Noise Advisory Council.

54 ewes stolen

Rustlers stole 54 ewes to lamb from Court Farm, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, and Thomas Mills, the owner, said yesterday that they left him only six animals.

مكتبة الأصل

HOME NEWS

Teachers demand support against 'absolutely horrifying' increase in school violence

By Tim Devlin Education Correspondent Figures showing the increase of violence in schools and physical assaults on teachers over the past three years were absolutely horrifying, Mr Michael McGowan, from Liverpool, told the Annual Council Meeting of the Assistant Masters Association in London yesterday.

Dr Boyson maps out road back to discipline

From Arthur Osman Birmingham Dr Rhodes Boyson fired off characteristic broadsides at many aspects of contemporary education yesterday when he advocated at a conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters for minimum standard national examinations for all children at the ages of seven, 11 and 14.

WEST EUROPE



EEC officials dispute the accuracy of Benn accusations

From Roger Berthoud Brussels, Dec 30 The attack by Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Industry, on a British membership of the EEC was seen in Brussels today as a forerunner of the expected referendum campaign.

Monarchy loses its last powers in Sweden

From Our Correspondent Stockholm, Dec 30 King Carl XVI Gustaf presided over a Cabinet meeting today for the last time. He loses this right as well as that of opening Parliament, under a new constitution that comes into effect on New Year's Day.

Call for devotion to duty

Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday that within the social contract the "big battalions" would win the war. The private sector would always outpace the public sector, he added.

General Franco, the Spanish chief of state, looking remarkably fit for his 82 years, faces the press photographers yesterday before recording his end-of-the-year address to the nation.

Wildlife Fund's plea to save world resources Morges, Dec. 30.—Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, president of the World Wildlife Fund, today warned the world against the destruction of timber, mineral and oil resources through short-sighted greed.

Italian doctors strike over freeze in fees

Rome, Dec 30.—About 40,000 health service doctors through Italy started a two-day strike today to protest against a law freezing their fees.

Court hearings on 'plots' transferred to Rome

From Peter Nichols Rome, Dec 30 The Court of Cassation today ordered that the Rome judiciary take over from the Padua and Turin investigating magistrates cases concerning alleged right-wing plots against the state.

Fewer dead on roads in oil crisis year

Bonn, Dec 30.—The year of the oil crisis will end with 2,000 fewer deaths on the roads in West Germany and 52,000 fewer injuries compared with 1973, the German Council for Traffic Safety said today.

Herring landings down

Herring landings at Scottish ports were down this year by nearly 17,000 tons compared with the 1973 catch, but were worth more than £3m more, the Herring Industry Board said in Edinburgh yesterday.

JPs attacked over jail sentence disparities

By Our Legal Correspondent "Stark and unjust variations" characterize the proportions in which magistrates send male offenders to jail, a survey carried out by the British group of Radical Alternatives to Prison (Rap) shows.

Ceremony to inaugurate hall marking of platinum

The new assay marks: NM stands for manufacturer, leopard for London, A for 1975. By Philip Howard The Hallmarking Act, passed in 1973, comes into force tomorrow, making it compulsory to hallmark platinum.

Lithuanians sent to labour camps

Moscow, Dec 30.—Four Lithuanians have been sentenced to labour camp terms ranging from one to eight years on charges of anti-Soviet activity. Reports connected the case with an official campaign against "underground Roman Catholicism."

Television fees in Italy go up by 50 per cent

Rome, Dec 30.—Television licence fees in Italy were increased today by 50 per cent from 12,000 to 18,000 lire (£3 to £12).—Reuter.

Protection order on wreck of treasure ship

By Neville Hodgkinson HMS Romney, a treasure-laden man-of-war that foundered off the Isles of Scilly in 1707, is to be the subject of a government protection order, the Department of Trade announced yesterday. But the decision comes only after seven years in which the wreck has been a rich source of booty for plunderers, according to the man who found it.

General Spínola replies to attack over Mozambique

From Our Correspondent Lisbon, Dec 30 An open breach between General Antonio de Spínola, the former President of the Republic, and Brigadier Spínola Carvalhal, the military governor of Lisbon, was disclosed today. Lisbon newspapers carried a letter from General Spínola rejecting the statement made by Brigadier Carvalhal, who accused him of intending to bring in United States or South African troops to help in the decolonizing of Mozambique.

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Advertisement for BOAT SHOW '75 Earls Court 1-11 January. Includes text 'OPENS TOMORROW!' and '21st LONDON INTERNATIONAL'.

OVERSEAS

Mr Callaghan will find a mood in Africa which leaves Britain on sidelines in Rhodesia settlement

From Michael Knipke Lusaka, Dec 30. A restrained welcome awaits Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, when he arrives tomorrow to begin his six-country African visit.

This time Zambia sees no reason for British participation. This seems to be the one thing all sides in southern Africa are agreed upon.

Accompanied by his wife Audrey, Dr J. Cunningham, his parliamentary private secretary, and senior Government officials. After a morning and afternoon at Victoria Falls, the party will return to Lusaka for the start of the official programme.



Mr John Ehrlichman with his wife Jeanne enter the Washington court yesterday for the trial in which he and four other defendants are facing Watergate cover-up charges.

Watergate jury ponders its verdict

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Dec 30. The Watergate trial jury were sent away this morning to consider their verdict. Judge John Sirica explained the relevant law to them in great detail and urged them to ignore all extraneous issues.

Why Cairo rejected terms needed for Brezhnev visit

Continued from page 1. Moscow recently initiated urgent diplomacy, aimed at a formal relationship, which would make the Egyptians to the Russian line, and in reply to an urgent message from Mr Brezhnev, the Egyptian Foreign Minister and War Minister were sent to Moscow.

Five-year-plan for rebuilding of Darwin

From Herbert Mishael Melbourne, Dec 30. Mr Whitlam, the Australian Prime Minister, announced today that a Darwin reconstruction commission would be set up to rebuild the devastated city. It would be established by statute as soon as the Federal Parliament resumed.

Angola talks to be held in Mombasa

Nairobi, Dec 30.—A constitutional conference between the Angolan liberation movements and Portugal on the independence of the territory will be held in Mombasa this week, it is learnt from diplomatic sources in Kenya today.

Mr Mills admits alcoholism and refuses to resign

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Dec 30. Mr Wilbur Mills admitted today that he is an alcoholic, swore total abstinence and said he would not resign his seat in the House of Representatives.

President Ford signs the Foreign Aid Bill

Vail, Colorado, Dec 30.—President Ford today signed a \$2,690m (£1,170m) Foreign Aid Bill while voicing concern over restrictions on his flexibility in dealing with America's allies and other countries.

CIA resignations are linked with disputes over policy

Washington, Dec 30.—The names of three leading officials of the Central Intelligence Agency whose resignations, reported yesterday, remove the entire command of the counter-intelligence division, Mr James Angleton, resigned last week.

How long will Germany be divided in the North?

On January 21, The Times is publishing a Special Report on North Germany. What are the people like in the Northern part of West Germany? What is their outlook on life? How do they make their living?

A Soviet account of the defence in Ukraine trial of Dr Shtern

The following is an abridged version of the second report from the Soviet news agency Novosti on the trial of Dr Mikhail Shtern which opened in the Ukrainian town of Vinnytsa on December 11. The veracity of this report cannot be checked because Western correspondents have been excluded from the courtroom. We publish the report because it indicates how closed Soviet trials are conducted. Dr Shtern, a Jew, has been in prison since May.

17 remanded on subversion charges in Port Said

From Our Correspondent Cairo, Dec 30. Seventeen people, arrested last week in Port Said, have been remanded in custody on charges of carrying out subversive activities in the town. Reports reaching Cairo today said that the Port Said prosecutor had accused the 17 of forming an anti-regime group, distributing subversive pamphlets and disseminating harmful rumours.

In brief

Gen Amin's plea for Scotland. President Idi Amin of Uganda has addressed a message to the leaders of the Soviet Union, China and several international organizations, urging the complete and immediate separation of Scotland from England.

If your company has any interest in North Germany, you'll find the Special Report presents a rare advertising opportunity. Not only will the Report be read by every company with a similar interest; it will be reaching altogether 1 1/2 million readers in the UK, Europe and throughout the world.

Senator's expulsion worsens divisions in Chile

From Florencia Varas Santiago, Dec 30. Hopes of a rapprochement between the 16-month-old regime of General Augusto Pinochet and the opposition Christian Democrats, once the country's largest political party, have been dashed.

Guerrillas fly out with \$1m

Managua, Dec 30.—Nicaraguan guerrillas today freed two ministers and 11 other hostages and took off for Cuba with about \$1m (£435,000) and 14 comrades freed from government jails.

30 years' pay—£55

Tokyo, Dec 30.—Mr Teruo Nakamura, a private in the Japanese Imperial Army who hid alone in the Indonesian jungle for 20 years, has been awarded his full backpay of 38,279 Yen (£55). Until 11 days ago he did not know the war had ended.

Arrows kill pacifiers

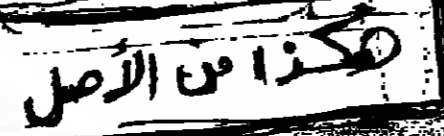
Rio de Janeiro, Dec 30.—Atraoqui Indians attacked an observation post in the northern Brazilian state of Roraima killing three men with bows and arrows and capturing another. The men were on a pacification mission for the Brazilian Indian Foundation.

Youth cuts off arm

Johannesburg, Dec 30.—A young African, Asaram Phiri, cut off his right arm at the elbow to escape from a crocodile which had it firmly in its jaws. He is now recovering in the Shogwe Swedish mission hospital in Transvaal.

Cape Verde transfer

Lisbon, Dec 30.—Portugal today transferred its power over the Cape Verde Islands to a transitional government.



ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use area 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area

Opera and Ballet: Covent Garden, English National Opera, Royal Festival Hall, Sadler's Wells Theatre, etc. Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, The Gipsyread Lady, Phoenix Theatre, etc. Cinemas: The Wizard of Oz, The Godfather, etc.

THE ARTS



Above: Burt Lancaster and Helmut Berger. Right: Luchino Visconti during the shooting of the film

Visconti's family inferno

Conversation Piece is Visconti's fourteenth feature film. It is tempting to compare Visconti's own life to that of his protagonists in the pattern of retreat from social contact that characterizes both. The film was made on the rebound from a serious illness and was directed by Visconti from a wheelchair. In Conversation Piece a retired professor attempts a realignment of values in order to stay with the world. Both these good-will endeavours are doomed: Burt Lancaster, in the dramatized version, dies disappointed, and Visconti, no doubt, will be pilloried by disappointed critics. As a former communist and current sympathiser, positions are expected of him which he refuses to assume. Conversation Piece depicts Italian society in its decadence, but takes no sides, except on a purely human level. Practically every character in the film is both sinner and victim; the shells peel off as we descend to the hell in those souls in our furnace as voyeurs. In a political climate where Marxism is the intellect's last utopian refuge, the objectivity of this approach is tantamount to treachery. A retired intellectual lives a life of quietude, collecting family paintings of more modern manners: a ménage-à-quatre composed of mother, daughter, daughter's fiancé and mother's lover, who rent space above him and there indulge in variously mixed sexual and social encounters. Despite his better judgment, compassion and loneliness involve him in their scrambles, but neither the superficial poetry of the young girl's sex nor the pretence of Mittel-European dilettantism of the mother's lover succeeds in truly attracting him. He fights against self-abasement but realizes that his straggling attempt at engagement in the present can no more free him of the feeling of uselessness that engulfs him than his prior escape into the past. Sensitivity and humanism are qualities rated low in today's social market. As a concentrated introduction to the problems of today's Italy, Conversation Piece is especially useful. Social, political, psychological, industrial, inter-personal and economic aspects of the current crisis are reflected in the central situation of the film, which is the conflict of the generations. But it would be wrong to consider it important as a symptom of Italian society alone; in fact Visconti's fatalistic prognosis concerns us all. Five people love and hate one another without finding, or even seeking, real contact. Striving for a morass of homosexuality, group love, drugs, criminality, corruption and suicide in an Italian context is incidental. It could be anywhere. And yet one does not walk away from this work with a feeling of defeat. It is clear that like his protagonist, Visconti is both repelled and attracted by the ascending generation, and similarly he attempts to come to terms with the sadness they inspire. He does not juxtapose, or try to transcend, to understand. Here is a man at the end of his life who finds that everything he has believed in means nothing to those who follow. Just as his films have been criticized for a lack of concern for the answers society is seeking, so his professor finds no answers for his own ailing. Oeo feels that a film about loneliness has hardly ever been made by a similarly lonely man. Helmut Berger, somewhat incongruously, plays a student who in 1968 failed to latch on to faith; Claudia Morsani and Stefano Patrizi are the young couple, both poorly played and useful, primarily, as symbols; and Silvana Manganò magnificently struts the part of the raucous mother, steamrolling the zoo in her wake, harshly crossing all civil and moral borders without fear or concern except for herself. It takes both courage and ability for an actress to play so ungrateful a part so well. But towering above all these, in the central, biographical part, is Burt Lancaster, who seems to have found his Quaker vein in rejecting the world without hating it. In fact, the message that the film seems to carry concerning the state of the world is that in order to continue not hating it, one practically has to reject it. It is the peace that comes to the professor on his deathbed with this realization that keeps the spectator from feeling defeated. Because it is this realization that keeps him from feeling the guilt that the film avoids attributing: this realization which says so clearly that the individual, despite all political or personal illusion, has very little power over his social fate, and that he has none over the future of the civilized world. For a film which is basically a play, inasmuch as it takes place in a single location and depends largely on dialogue, Visconti has succeeded in creating a style admirably suited to his concern. In dark brows

Gideon Bachmann

and ochres and elaborate turn-of-the-century decor, paying minute attention to details, both decorative and aural, and by delicately restraining the acting of the principals, he has underlined the claustrophobia and loneliness, and the hesitant steps, alas disastrous, to escape both. Burt Lancaster, who plays the same part here as he did in The Leopard and as he is now doing again, for Bertolucci, in 1990, is directed so meticulously that one clearly feels that identification of actor and character so rare in cinema. "The old", Visconti says, "may well try to understand the young and to love them, but the gap between the generations cannot really be bridged. All I want to do with this film is show their relationship in all its sadness. I try to show the world the way it is. The old are either removed from it or have gone back to fascism. The young are corrupt or are exposed to corruption at every step. At the same time they are beautiful and attractive, and their corruption is not a conscious one. Life is short; one must live it without shame. It may end in a few minutes." He quotes Auden, as he does in the film. Because this is a film about acceptance. Not an film about failure.

Brancusi at home

Many of the works by which Brancusi is best known, like Mile Pogany, Sleeping Muse, the almost completely abstract ovoid, Beginning of the World and the many versions of Bird in Space, have always struck me as precious and stylized generalizations of form which come perilously close to kitsch or sentimentality. On the other hand I have always admired The Kiss, an early work of which Brancusi made many variations, a sculpture both comic and erotic. And the hefty wood chunks, and the rough furniture which Brancusi made for his studio (now reconstructed in the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris), seemed more sympathetic than the smoothly polished and facile sculptures in bronze and stone for which they, or similar heavy chunks of wood or stone, often formed the bases or pedestals. I had long been fascinated by photographs of the series of large sculptures Brancusi made in the late Thirties for the little town of Tirgu-Jiu near his birthplace in Romania, which seemed to develop these ideas on a monumental scale. A recent visit to Tirgu-Jiu confirmed this. Brancusi's works there are the most successful monumental or "environmental" sculptures of recent times. They are impressive by any standard and are undoubtedly Brancusi's finest works. They are those on which his claim to be a great modern sculptor must rest. Brancusi's best-known works—his abstracted heads, birds and animals—look, in the light of the sculptures at Tirgu-Jiu, like a dead end, a false direction. One suspects that it was the demands of collectors and of the Parisian art world where Brancusi passed most of his working life that led him to spend so much time on these precious objects, and to confine his most fruitful ideas to bases and pedestals. Although he had made early versions of the Endless Column before 1920 (the most important being one for the garden of the photographer Edward Steichen, then living in Paris) the full realization of his best ideas only came with the commission, when Brancusi was 60, to produce a series of monumental works in his native country. The sculptures were originally commissioned as a memorial to the heroic resistance of the town in the First World War. The money made

Paul Overy

available covered only the materials and Brancusi was not paid. The works were carried out by craftsmen from the town of Tirgu-Jiu near his birthplace in Romania, which seemed to develop these ideas on a monumental scale. A recent visit to Tirgu-Jiu confirmed this. Brancusi's works there are the most successful monumental or "environmental" sculptures of recent times. They are impressive by any standard and are undoubtedly Brancusi's finest works. They are those on which his claim to be a great modern sculptor must rest. Brancusi's best-known works—his abstracted heads, birds and animals—look, in the light of the sculptures at Tirgu-Jiu, like a dead end, a false direction. One suspects that it was the demands of collectors and of the Parisian art world where Brancusi passed most of his working life that led him to spend so much time on these precious objects, and to confine his most fruitful ideas to bases and pedestals. Although he had made early versions of the Endless Column before 1920 (the most important being one for the garden of the photographer Edward Steichen, then living in Paris) the full realization of his best ideas only came with the commission, when Brancusi was 60, to produce a series of monumental works in his native country. The sculptures were originally commissioned as a memorial to the heroic resistance of the town in the First World War. The money made

Pretzels Theatre-Four, New York

Whatever happened to revues? Were they eaten by television one dark night, or did the public just forget about them and let them starve from neglect? In any event, it is a pleasure to welcome a revue that obviously endangered species, the revue, to Theatre Four on West 55th Street. It is small, modest, yet chic. There are just four performers, including the pianist, and the decor consists merely of a handsome grand piano and a bizarrely attractive furniture group, designed by Stuart Wurzel, that is subject to protean changes capable of making it an employment office one moment and a living room the next. If the show has a certain inbred as well as well-bred air, it is easy to see why. The music, as lyricist, are by the pianist, John Forster, who also takes part in a couple of sketches, and the show has been written by two of the other performers, Jane Curran and Judy Kahan, together with Peter Green. The cast is completed by Timothy Jarnal. The theme of Pretzels is mild urban disillusion. The tone is gentle and never barbed with satire, so that the wisest notes heard are those of people who do not know all. The show is at its best in dealing with assorted oddities: the pretentious young man who lives in Greenwich Village and tries to pick up girls at cocktail parties with talk of Ingmar Bergman and tapestries at the Metropolitan, the Doctor of Anthropology who works, for experience, as a coffee waitress but will gleefully discuss the sexual habits of a little-known South Pacific tribe, or even the suburban housewife who, tired of preparing dinner for people she does not know and will not like, decides that she wants to do an ins and dance. The performers are among the best in the city. The blonde Miss Curran showed just the kind of revue performer, moving easily from a Ninth Avenue harrier, to Miss Kahan was equally versatile and spontaneous. Bright, bland and blithe, Pretzels offers more in the way of pointed mimicry than genuine observation. Yet it should prove a pleasant enough way to pass two hours after a dinner or before supper.—New York Times News Service.

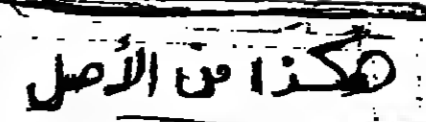
Clive Barnes

Clive Barnes... The show has a certain inbred as well as well-bred air, it is easy to see why. The music, as lyricist, are by the pianist, John Forster, who also takes part in a couple of sketches, and the show has been written by two of the other performers, Jane Curran and Judy Kahan, together with Peter Green. The cast is completed by Timothy Jarnal. The theme of Pretzels is mild urban disillusion. The tone is gentle and never barbed with satire, so that the wisest notes heard are those of people who do not know all. The show is at its best in dealing with assorted oddities: the pretentious young man who lives in Greenwich Village and tries to pick up girls at cocktail parties with talk of Ingmar Bergman and tapestries at the Metropolitan, the Doctor of Anthropology who works, for experience, as a coffee waitress but will gleefully discuss the sexual habits of a little-known South Pacific tribe, or even the suburban housewife who, tired of preparing dinner for people she does not know and will not like, decides that she wants to do an ins and dance. The performers are among the best in the city. The blonde Miss Curran showed just the kind of revue performer, moving easily from a Ninth Avenue harrier, to Miss Kahan was equally versatile and spontaneous. Bright, bland and blithe, Pretzels offers more in the way of pointed mimicry than genuine observation. Yet it should prove a pleasant enough way to pass two hours after a dinner or before supper.—New York Times News Service.

The Table of Silence

A wide pathway flanked by chestnut trees leads through the park to The Gate of the Kiss. Beneath the chestnut trees along the path are lines of seats, 15 on each side, grouped in threes, which are "squared off" versions of the seats round the table. The Gate is over 17ft high, 21ft wide and 5ft in thickness. Despite its huge size it is not oppressive as one passes under or around it. The first time I saw the Column, arriving at dusk, a boy was rousing up several skinny cows, which were constantly milking. The Column has developed a seven degree list from the vertical, and if anything this adds to the sense of continual repetition, a ladder into the infinite. The same elements give the column a slight, but not obtrusive optical throbb which helps to dematerialise it. Only when close to do you realize the sheer weight and size of it. (It is nearly 100ft high.) A hundred yards or so farther on along what is now (as between table and gate) a path through a public space, flanked with half grown chestnut saplings, is the final monument, a mass of stone, very similar to the table, although slightly smaller in diameter and without the seats. It is near the perimeter of the open space, and one senses the innuendo trailing off rather bleakly into the plain on either side. It forms an effective and rather self-effacing "full-stop" echoing the table but with quite a different symbolism.

THE TIMES We like to keep you in the know



SPORT

Racing

Junior Partner in the chair at Cheltenham

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent
As far as racing is concerned the New Year will be celebrated in the southern half of the country...

Flash Imp, Perambulate and Maximilian, a task that looks much harder.
At Cheltenham, Isle of Man, still unobscured as a steeplechaser, could be the winner of the New Year's Mother...

The Bass Handicap Steeplechase replaces the Fred Whittington Steeplechase of old. Northern Hurdle is being replaced by the new...

formative of Maximilian, who got Tree Tangle on the stretch in the William Hill Christmas Hurdle.
Admittedly he was receiving 13lb from Tree Tangle, but he had never run under National Hunt rules...

There is also racing at Windsor today. The two divisions of the Clontarf Handicap are to be won by Henry Tuffnut and Garyman...

Calvert set for Catterick double

By Jim Snow
The old year slips out quietly today with two modest meetings and plenty of runners at Catterick...

Jack Calvert, who stable on the Hamilton Hills is less than 20 miles away from Catterick, has a chance to bring off a double...

Looking ahead to Catterick's New Year day meeting, Young Somers and Ononhill appear as a probable double for Tony Dickson...

Windsor programme today

Table listing racing events at Windsor, including 1.0 KEAT'S LANE HURDLE, 2.0 BERKSHIRE STEEPLECHASE, 3.0 MONTEM STEEPLECHASE, 4.0 MONTEM STEEPLECHASE, 5.0 MONTEM STEEPLECHASE, 6.0 MONTEM STEEPLECHASE, 7.0 MONTEM STEEPLECHASE, 8.0 MONTEM STEEPLECHASE, 9.0 MONTEM STEEPLECHASE, 10.0 MONTEM STEEPLECHASE.

Catterick Bridge today

Table listing racing events at Catterick Bridge, including 1.0 MOTHER GOOSE BURDLE, 2.0 MOTHER GOOSE BURDLE, 3.0 MOTHER GOOSE BURDLE, 4.0 MOTHER GOOSE BURDLE, 5.0 MOTHER GOOSE BURDLE, 6.0 MOTHER GOOSE BURDLE, 7.0 MOTHER GOOSE BURDLE, 8.0 MOTHER GOOSE BURDLE, 9.0 MOTHER GOOSE BURDLE, 10.0 MOTHER GOOSE BURDLE.

Stratford-on-Avon programme today

Table listing racing events at Stratford-on-Avon, including 1.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 2.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 3.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 4.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 5.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 6.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 7.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 8.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 9.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 10.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE.

Cheltenham tomorrow

Table listing racing events at Cheltenham for tomorrow, including 1.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 2.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 3.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 4.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 5.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 6.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 7.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 8.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 9.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 10.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE.

Devon and Exeter tomorrow

Table listing racing events at Devon and Exeter for tomorrow, including 1.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 2.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 3.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 4.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 5.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 6.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 7.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 8.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 9.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 10.15 SANDFORD HURDLE.

Leicester programme tomorrow

Table listing racing events at Leicester for tomorrow, including 1.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 2.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 3.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 4.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 5.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 6.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 7.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 8.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 9.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 10.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE.

Windsor selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
1.0 Always Ready, 2.0 Early Frost, 3.0 Cornmarket, 3.30 Golden Sun, 4.0 Tuffnut, 5.0 Tuffnut, 6.0 Tuffnut, 7.0 Tuffnut, 8.0 Tuffnut, 9.0 Tuffnut, 10.0 Tuffnut.

Catterick Bridge selections

By Our Racing Staff
1.30 Any Prince, 1.0 Willow Walk, 1.30 Tab, 2.0 Easy Abbey, 2.30 Marcus Lady, 3.0 Kerry Blue.

Catterick Bridge tomorrow

1.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 2.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 3.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 4.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 5.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 6.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 7.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 8.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 9.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 10.15 FINGALL HURDLE.

Stratford-on-Avon selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
1.15 Brave Chap, 1.15 Double Run, 1.45 Greek Warrior, 2.15 King Neptune, 2.45 Number Engaged, 3.15 Lydell Cap.

Leicester programme tomorrow

1.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 2.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 3.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 4.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 5.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 6.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 7.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 8.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 9.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 10.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE.

Leicester selections

By Our Racing Staff
1.00 Portcarrac, 2.30 Wild Fox, 3.00 FINEY GOLD is specially recommended.

Devon and Exeter selections

By Our Racing Staff
1.45 Tador, 2.15 Prospect, 2.45 Eagle Feather, 3.15 Hullo Azan, 3.40 Tuning Heights.

Cheltenham selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
1.15 HIRAM MAXIM is specially recommended, 1.15 Isle of Man, 1.30 Danville Partner, 2.25 Moyne Royal, 3.0 Braintree Farmer, 3.30 Flammula.

Windsor programme tomorrow

Table listing racing events at Windsor for tomorrow, including 1.0 BRAY HURDLE, 2.0 BRAY HURDLE, 3.0 BRAY HURDLE, 4.0 BRAY HURDLE, 5.0 BRAY HURDLE, 6.0 BRAY HURDLE, 7.0 BRAY HURDLE, 8.0 BRAY HURDLE, 9.0 BRAY HURDLE, 10.0 BRAY HURDLE.

Catterick Bridge tomorrow

Table listing racing events at Catterick Bridge for tomorrow, including 1.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 2.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 3.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 4.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 5.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 6.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 7.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 8.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 9.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 10.15 FINGALL HURDLE.

Stratford-on-Avon tomorrow

Table listing racing events at Stratford-on-Avon for tomorrow, including 1.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 2.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 3.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 4.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 5.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 6.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 7.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 8.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 9.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 10.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE.

Cheltenham tomorrow

Table listing racing events at Cheltenham for tomorrow, including 1.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 2.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 3.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 4.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 5.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 6.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 7.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 8.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 9.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 10.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE.

Devon and Exeter tomorrow

Table listing racing events at Devon and Exeter for tomorrow, including 1.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 2.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 3.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 4.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 5.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 6.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 7.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 8.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 9.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 10.15 SANDFORD HURDLE.

Leicester programme tomorrow

Table listing racing events at Leicester for tomorrow, including 1.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 2.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 3.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 4.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 5.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 6.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 7.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 8.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 9.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 10.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE.

Windsor selections

By Our Racing Staff
1.0 Arya Crafty, 2.0 Green Up, 2.0 Maximilian, 2.30 King Flame, 3.0 Ireland's Own, 3.30 Magic Mountain.

Catterick Bridge selections

By Our Racing Staff
1.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 2.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 3.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 4.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 5.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 6.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 7.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 8.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 9.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 10.15 FINGALL HURDLE.

Stratford-on-Avon selections

By Our Racing Staff
1.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 2.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 3.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 4.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 5.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 6.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 7.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 8.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 9.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 10.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE.

Leicester selections

By Our Racing Staff
1.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 2.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 3.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 4.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 5.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 6.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 7.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 8.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 9.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 10.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE.

Devon and Exeter selections

By Our Racing Staff
1.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 2.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 3.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 4.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 5.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 6.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 7.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 8.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 9.15 SANDFORD HURDLE, 10.15 SANDFORD HURDLE.

Cheltenham selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
1.15 HIRAM MAXIM is specially recommended, 1.15 Isle of Man, 1.30 Danville Partner, 2.25 Moyne Royal, 3.0 Braintree Farmer, 3.30 Flammula.

Catterick Bridge tomorrow

By Our Racing Staff
1.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 2.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 3.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 4.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 5.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 6.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 7.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 8.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 9.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 10.15 FINGALL HURDLE.

Fontwell Park

Table listing racing events at Fontwell Park, including 1.15 BRIGHTON HURDLE, 2.15 BRIGHTON HURDLE, 3.15 BRIGHTON HURDLE, 4.15 BRIGHTON HURDLE, 5.15 BRIGHTON HURDLE, 6.15 BRIGHTON HURDLE, 7.15 BRIGHTON HURDLE, 8.15 BRIGHTON HURDLE, 9.15 BRIGHTON HURDLE, 10.15 BRIGHTON HURDLE.

Leicester results

Table listing racing results at Leicester, including 1.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 2.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 3.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 4.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 5.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 6.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 7.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 8.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 9.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 10.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE.

Windsor results

Table listing racing results at Windsor, including 1.0 BRAY HURDLE, 2.0 BRAY HURDLE, 3.0 BRAY HURDLE, 4.0 BRAY HURDLE, 5.0 BRAY HURDLE, 6.0 BRAY HURDLE, 7.0 BRAY HURDLE, 8.0 BRAY HURDLE, 9.0 BRAY HURDLE, 10.0 BRAY HURDLE.

Catterick Bridge results

Table listing racing results at Catterick Bridge, including 1.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 2.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 3.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 4.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 5.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 6.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 7.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 8.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 9.15 FINGALL HURDLE, 10.15 FINGALL HURDLE.

Stratford-on-Avon results

Table listing racing results at Stratford-on-Avon, including 1.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 2.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 3.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 4.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 5.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 6.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 7.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 8.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 9.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE, 10.15 AULD LANG SYNE BURDLE.

Cheltenham results

Table listing racing results at Cheltenham, including 1.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 2.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 3.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 4.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 5.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 6.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 7.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 8.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 9.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE, 10.15 WORTHINGTON STEEPLECHASE.

Devon and Exeter results

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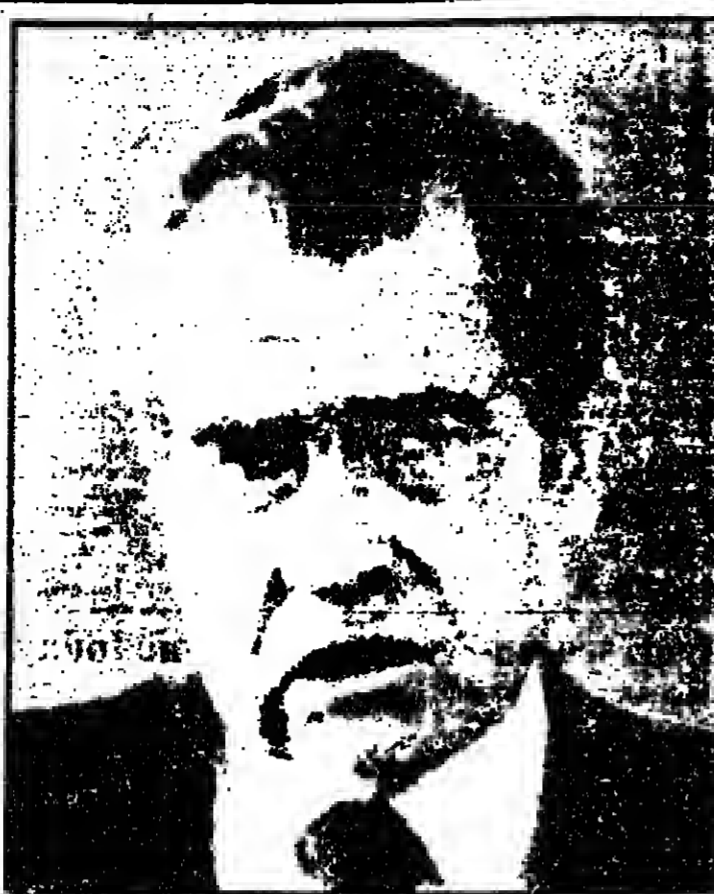
Leicester results

Table listing racing results at Leicester, including 1.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 2.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 3.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 4.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 5.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 6.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 7.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 8.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 9.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE, 10.15 HUNTERBURY HURDLE.

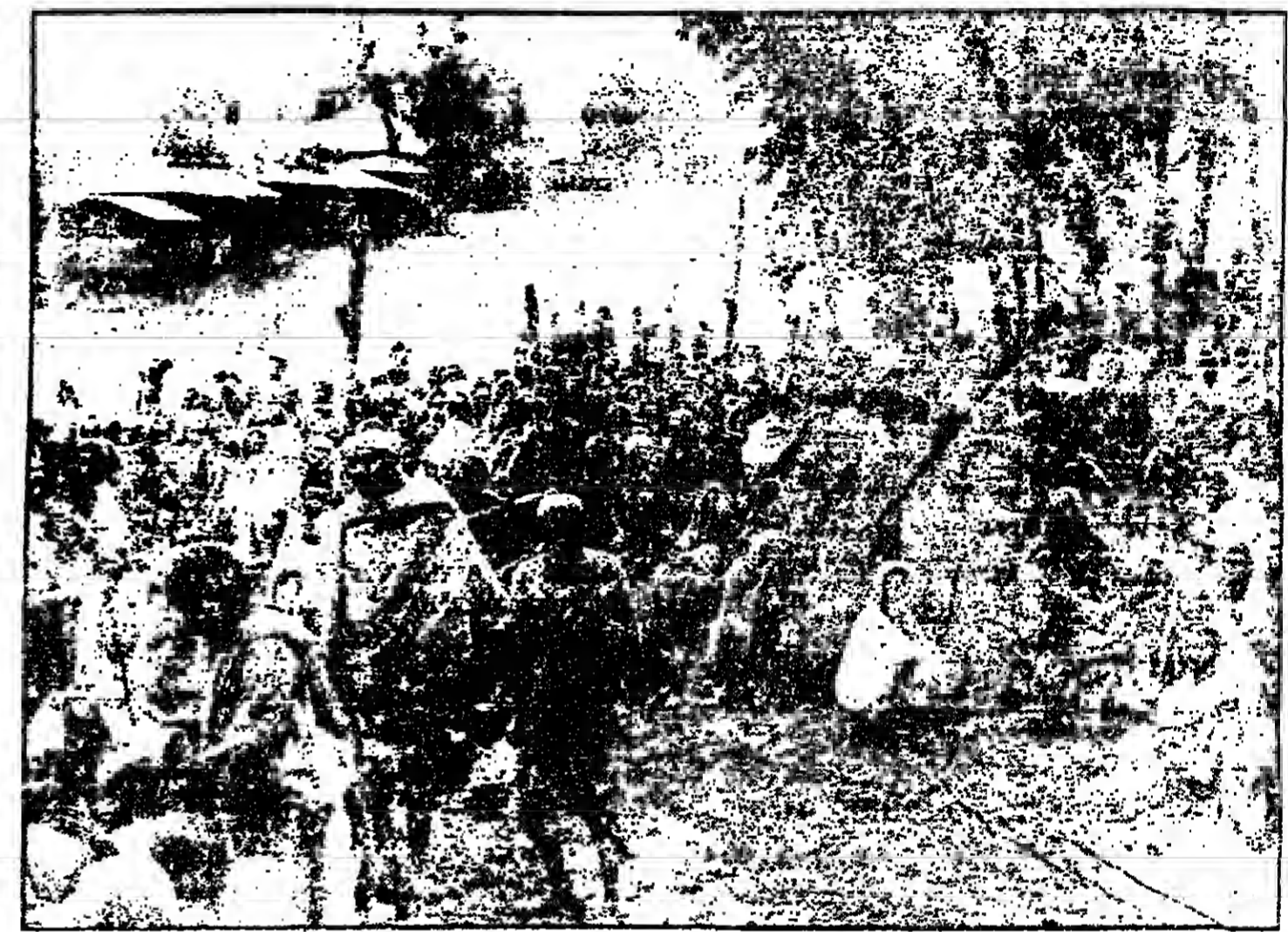
Windsor results

Table listing racing results at Windsor, including 1.0 BRAY HURDLE, 2.0 BRAY HURDLE, 3.0 BRAY HURDLE, 4.0 BRAY HURDLE, 5.0 BRAY HURDLE, 6.0 BRAY HURDLE, 7.0 BRAY HURDLE, 8.0 BRAY HURDLE, 9.0 BRAY HURDLE, 10.0 BRAY HURDLE.

The Times review of the year



Disaster strikes early: wreckage of the Turkish DC10 which crashed near Paris killing all 344 people aboard. A haggard Nixon ready to fall, petrol crisis days, and the Streaker of the Year, with thoughtful policeman, at Twickenham.



Disaster strikes late: two bodies half buried in the debris after a bomb attack on the Mulberry Bush public house in Birmingham. And in the year Haile Selassie was deposed, hungry peasants wait pathetically for government grain.

Of princes, prawns and petro-dollars

The fall of princes is one of the archetypal themes. It fires the imagination with an image of the possible overthrow of one's own modest security and credit, or of death itself, and the mightier the prince, the more his fall resounds. More than most years, 1974 gained its flavour from the foreshadowings and repercussions of a single event, the resignation of President Nixon. It took him so long to go. Sometimes it seemed as if the intricate succession of judgments, subpoenas, defiances and concessions had become a permanent accompaniment to the business of world politics. Alternately listless and feverish, Mr Nixon endured what was in a sense the most conspicuous testimony that any man has ever had to face, all the time apparently feeling himself injured and misjudged. Then the infection of the atmosphere soon threatened to envelop Mr Ford, whom the nation had been so eager to think well of when he became President.

While Nixon suffered, much of the business of state went by default, particularly within the United States, but also internationally, where other countries were not willing to deal with a lame duck President. One result was the extraordinary ascendancy gained by Mr Kissinger, who appeared to have a more durable stature and a greater command of events than the President himself. Bustling in pursuit of compromise round and round the world, he knocked together a series of understandings between parties so incompatible that only his own efforts in constantly cobbling them up again kept old enemies from bursting out. When it was seen that he had not after all worked miracles, his credit, and hence his power to persuade, began to wane. The most brilliant of his mediators, that between Israel and her Arab neighbours, had been so far undermined by the end of the year that yet another war there seemed all too possible.

This was a common pattern everywhere in 1974. A great deal happened, yet in the end the state of affairs bore a remarkably close resemblance to what it had been at the beginning. In Britain, a period of 12 months containing two elections, four budgets (one from Mr Barber,

administration, with which Israel, France, West Germany and Italy were each without a head of government. They continued their characteristic courses until successors were found, and thereafter. Two Miss World's also lost their crowns, and attracted as many headlines as any.

The fall of Edward Heath was a romantic one. The glitter of breastplates and the thunder of cavalry has not been heard as clearly in British politics for many a year as when he sought the acclamation of the realm to sustain his contest with the barons of the NUM and ASLEF. It was the election of the three-day week and the state of emergency, and it confronted Lenin's fundamental question of politics, "Who whom?" more directly than seemed to the British taste quite proper. We are still too much involved with its consequences to make an historical judgment on its rights and wrongs. We might have landed as deep in the soup if it had gone the other way. The judgment of the electorate was that they were not existing on either side in a class war. The outcome was ambiguous; the stricken leader swallowed his pride and blew on his horn to summon help. The Liberal Party heard the note from afar, dispersed urgently among themselves, and pressed on in quest of a Liberal majority, saying "We can't go back for Ted now".

The period that followed was in its way exhilarating. Mr Wilson, all his bounce suddenly restored, perceived accurately that he was in a position to do almost as well as long as his opponents feared another election more than he did. The Industrial Relations Act was dismantled, wage controls reduced in principle (though gratefully relied on in practice), and many Bills of moderate contentiousness were successfully made law.

The social contract between the Government and the TUC had some influence on the level of pay claims, but not enough. It did not stop industrial disputes occurring at a high rate and in categories (most notably in the hospitals) where quieter ways of settling claims had prevailed, and where the interests of vulnerable people were endangered. The new stature of the unions meant that rifts and intrigues among their leaders were followed

with more timorous attention than those to the cabinet itself. The flush of victory aroused a disturbing tendency in some people to suppose that not only collective bargains but almost any action designed to further a socialist end should henceforth be spared the interference of the law.

In Northern Ireland the February election was a disaster. Candidates hostile to the idea of sharing power between Catholic and Protestant won so many parliamentary seats that the Sunningdale plan was doomed before it had had time in win confidence. A general strike by Protestant workers finally brought Mr Faulkner's executive down. Nobody in England had much idea what to try next, so a constitutional convention was proposed for next year. The activities of the extremists on both sides increasingly seemed more pathological than political. More bombs exploded in England and fewer in Ulster, where sectarian murders continued. Often the victims were men and women not active in politics at all. Several members of the IRA in prison undertook hunger strikes; one, Michael Gaughan, died.

For both big parties, the dilemma of the second election of the year was the same: to convey how very bad things were, without acknowledging that one's own policies might have contributed to making them so. The Labour and Tory campaigns relied on widely diverse statistics, which proved later to have underestimated and overestimated the rate of inflation by roughly similar margins. Since wages were still amply keeping pace with prices, toes of doom seemed rather unreal to the public, whose verdict is best interpreted as another comprehensive raspberry. Only the Scottish Nationalists fulfilled any of those stimulating prophecies of a radical realignment of parties.

But Mr Wilson was set up with a durable majority and pursued his course in a manner not more but less doctrinaire than before. Mr Heath faced the supposedly Fraserian vengeance of the Tories towards a fallen leader. If they simply coughed and shuffled their feet, that was less an indication of his magnetism than of the absence of a convincing successor. His failure to engage the affection either of the voter or the back-

believed to have been made about 1440 and showing the earliest representative of the American continent, may be a forgery.

30 The Commonwealth Games in New Zealand were attended by the Queen and other members of the Royal Family.

31 Gunmen killed two Roman Catholic workmen and injured others in a burst of fire in a roadside hut in Belfast.

A Pan-American Boeing crashed in Samoa with the loss of over 90 lives.

February

1 Two hundred and twenty people died in an office block fire in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

2 Arab terrorists threatened to blow up a Greek cargo ship unless Palestinians sentenced to death for an attack on Athens airport last year were released. The Greek government capitulated to the terrorists.

4 The IRA planted a bomb in a coach carrying servicemen and their families along the M62 motorway from Manchester to Carrerick. Twelve people were killed. Judith Ward was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for the crime on November 4.

6 Armed terrorists in Kuwait seized hostages at the Japanese Embassy there and demanded that Japan provide a plane to bring their stranded comrades from Singapore. These demands were met and the terrorists flew to Aden two days later.

7 A General Election was announced for February 28 and Parliament was dissolved. The island of Grenada became an independent state within the Commonwealth.

8 Skylab III, the United States orbiting space laboratory splashed down in the Pacific with its crew of three, ending an 84-day mission.

9 The coal miners' national strike started at midnight in support of a pay claim after three months of industrial action.

11 John Poulson, architect, and George Pottenger, civil servant, were sentenced to five years' imprisonment for corruption. Poulson was jailed for a further seven years to run concurrently on March 15.

12 A £1.5m offer to the miners to end their strike by a group of industrialists was rejected by the NUM. Petrol prices rose by 8p a gallon and bread by 1p.

13 Electricity voltage cuts began as a result of the miners' strike. The British fishing trawler Gaul vanished at sea with the probable loss of 36 of her crew.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian writer, was expelled from the Soviet Union and deprived of his citizenship.

19 Birmingham Broadcasting, the first English commercial radio station outside London, began transmissions.

22 Pakistan recognized Bangladesh, in an announcement before the Islamic summit conference in Lahore.

23 A film painting, Vermeer's Guitar Player, was stolen from Kenwood House, London. It was recovered on May 7.

25 A record British trade deficit of £383m for January was announced.

27 In Ethiopia the government resigned as the army took control of Asmara, Ethiopia's second largest city. Lieutenant Colley, the American army officer jailed for complicity in the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, was released on bail. His conviction was quashed on September 25.

28 America agreed to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt. The General Election resulted in a stalemate with Labour 301 seats, Conservatives 296 seats, Liberals 14 seats and others 34 seats.

March

1 Janie Jones, a 36-year-old cabaret singer, at the conclusion of a celebrated trial,

George Hill

هكذا من الأصل

Faith will not be restored until the 'mandarins, managers and meddlers' image is dispelled

Can the Tories win back the working class vote?

Sharing the shane of Ulster

The two Conservative defeats of 1974 are variously alleged to have arisen from the loss of working-class votes, middle-class votes and the Ulster, Scottish and Welsh seats. This seems an undecisive assessment of the reasons for the remaining English "upper-class" can hardly have saved many constituencies.

Leaving aside the Celtic seats, an analysis of the English constituency figures clearly indicates that the loss of working-class votes was the critical factor. In the two elections in 1974 the national swing, expressed as a percentage, from Conservative to Labour, was 3.5 but in the Merseyside it was 6.0, in Greater Manchester 6.1, in the industrial north-east 5.6 and in inner London 3.1. By contrast the swing in Outer London was only 2.2 while in the north-east there was actually a swing to the Conservatives of 0.4.

The loss of the Celtic seats is nothing new. The speeches of Disraeli regularly referred to "England", and one Conservative pamphlet of 1892 consoled contemporary readers that "The radical majority of 40 was entirely due to Irish, Welsh and Scottish votes". It added: "since then, every act of the Radical Government has been directed against the glories and power of England". For many years our identification with a narrow empire provided a focus for Scottish loyalty, but the weakening of empire and the strengthening of centralized government in London inevitably strained the desire for a continued close link with England. Only the revival of a meaningful patriotism will reverse the loss of Scotland.

For their self-preservation the Conservatives must therefore ask why they lost the working-class votes. If something like

two-thirds of the electorate are taken as being "working-class", the Conservatives must poll at least a third of their votes to have any chance of forming a government. A hundred urban seats largely decide which political party will form a government. Karl Marx discerned the profound conservatism of the English working-class and for over 90 years—since male franchise was combined with a fairly even distribution of seats—roughly half the Conservative votes have come from them.

I grew up in a Lancashire cotton town which was traditionally working-class Tory and it is interesting to analyse why the Conservative Party dominated its life. Ordinary people found it easier to identify with the Conservatives in the 1930s because they were the party of tradition, law and order, and of established institutions, including the empire. People gained pride from their votes which linked them, even in economically depressed years, with a sense of greatness. Most families boasted relatives who populated the empire, all were royalists and Tory meetings always had the Union Jack draped over the platform table. It is perhaps significant that when I wanted a Union Jack on my table at election meetings in Wombey last October, I was told by one of my members that this was the flag of the National Front!

Many of the working-class Tories were in the labour force because free enterprise was real to them. Big business was historically linked with the old Liberal manufacturers, but many ordinary workers saved up to buy two houses whose rents would provide for their old age while their savings bank continued to accumulate. As Co-operative Society members, they equated profit with the "divi" as a goal to be lauded, while the early unions

promoted self-help in welfare. As employees they knew cotton spinners and weaving masters who had started at the mule and the loom. Capitalism for them represented thrift, industry and involvement, not faceless financiers whom they never met.

Most of the pillars which buttressed the "angels in marble"—Disraeli's working-class Tories—have recently been undermined. The British Empire is now something the left has made us feel guilty for having ever possessed. Few celebrate it as one of the most civilized and just empires ever known whose control from these small islands was a contemporary miracle. The Conservative commitment to the European Community has even enabled Labour to appear as the patriotic party.

The Conservatives have become a party of professional managers and amateur efficiency experts. In a disastrous local government reorganisation they have unthinkingly, even ruthlessly, destroyed old institutions and ancient loyalties in the name of Beotham's efficiency. Even our festivals have declined. In the 1930s we walked in procession at every excuse but now the protesters have all the best matches while on the marriage of Princess Anne last year schools were even left to decide on which day they would take their holiday. This is our past attacked and our sense of duty and purpose undermined.

Large-scale immigration by groups of people for economic opportunity and not political loyalty has further weakened our sense of national unity. Their effect is different from that of previous waves of political refugees who were desperately anxious to identify with our country. On law and order the Conservatives have become progressive but not Tory. The old Tories knew by instinct what

Most of the pillars which buttressed the angels in marble —Disraeli's working-class Tories—have recently been undermined

the people they represented wanted, but there is a risk that many present Conservatives try to lead without representing. National unity arises naturally where there are shared beliefs and aims; it cannot arise where ordinary people feel that no one represents their deepest wishes or understands their feelings. Selkirk man went wrong because it appeared to make the Conservative Party into a set of demagogic economic liberals who saw little purpose in patriotism or in man's other, non-economic, needs. The state, however, must come first for man is still a tribal animal with deep rooted emotional, political loyalties. Free enterprise is not sufficient in itself. Its prime

political virtue is that its very efficiency increases the power of the state and the potentialities of private property is a buttress against arbitrary power. The state has its role to play in legislation for minimum standards while holding the balance between taxpayers and taxpayers.

Very many members of trade unions are themselves opposed to the increasing powers and arbitrariness of their leaders. The Conservatives were probably wrong to promise in October not to reintroduce the Industrial Relations Act. It is not only the self-employed who see privileged trade unions as a threat both to individual freedom and to established institutions.

Not are many of the working-class wedded to the present welfare state. They see the abuses which abound and resent the more the heavy taxation. The memory of self-help goes deep and it was the sense of pride and self-help which buttressed the Conservative vote.

In education I have never believed that there is a working-class or middle-class or upper-class culture: there is just culture. Great art, literature, music, philosophy and thought does not belong to any class or high culture typify men who are great. Having stood the test of time, high culture makes men greater or wiser than they would otherwise be. I would similarly argue that there is no working-class or middle-class or upper-class conservatism: but only high Toryism which will stand up for its supporters to feel greater and more fulfilled than they are now.

In Disraeli's 1872 Crystal Palace speech, he declared that the Conservative Party had three aims: to maintain the institutions of the country, to im-

prove the condition of the people, and to put the crown and the Parliament and a disorganised government in a position to carry out a good test of the "Tories" of contenders for the Conservative leadership would be to ask if they are proposing to make heredity peers again. Secure order and firm law are part of good institutions. People feel now that whichever party is in power the present political excesses will be ignored. If the Conservative Party had come out last October in favour of capital punishment for terrorists, it would be the government now. National unity is to be desired and people feel that even a Conservative government would have to legislate their deep-felt convictions.

The empire of England has gone but we can at least rebuild pride in our history and in our achievements. We have endured an age of scepticism, of ruthless "knockers" of all authority, so that reasonable determinate faith which gives pride and security is regarded as though they really looked to maintain the unity of the United Kingdom. It is a great loss that the "unionism" which has already lost the Ulster seats, if Wales and Scotland were to move to self-government, then England would also demand it and a wave of fragmented, frustrated "patriotism" would sweep the country which would be outside the established parties. The Conservatives would have to come to be even the English party.

The condition of the people will be elevated not by government-sponsored industrial mergers or nationalization or

Wedgwood-Benn interventionism, but by putting responsibility back to individuals and families in social, educational and economic matters. The state could then be an active, non-playing umpire. Mr Wedgwood-Benn has rightly diagnosed an ill in our people but his prescription of "political participation" is a perverted form of medieval guild. Let the Conservatives then, as last century on electoral reform, take the initiative and now stir people true individual participation. This could mean the voucher in education, choice of health service schemes, choice of pensions and home ownership for council tenants. Improve the condition of people by giving them choice, and where they lack the means to make responsible buys give them vouchers and money so that they too can pay their own way. Such a programme would really outdate the drab, dogmatic Labour Fabianism which would make the state the sole provider and arbiter of our lives!

Especially, this is certainly an interesting time. It was the last economic collapse of 1931, also associated with socialist financial management, that put the Labour Party into opposition for 14 years. We are clearly heading for a similar collapse, and the voter-joining the working-class vote will lose faith in confidence, security and faith in the future to the Conservative Party. Can the Conservatives as patriots, historians and philosophers and not as mandarins, managers and meddlers rebuild the old Tory faith in time so that the angels in marble again return home?

Dr Rhodes Boyson
Conservative MP for Brent, North.
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Sharing the shane of Ulster

This is a plea for peace, justice and friendship between the people and the rulers of the two principal islands of Britain. "Some interests" in such a plea need not be far apart. "Easily aroused and easily appeased," this did a forebear of mine describe his and my Irish compatriots: some of the truest Irish memories are of the young men of the British army who were slowly aroused but who were never erred to appeasement. This pragmatic difference of political temperament accounts for much tragic history, but also for much affection based on understanding. There is, at the moment, virtually no anti-British, or if you prefer it anti-British, feeling among the people of the Republic of Ireland. Perhaps such a state of affairs is a bit pure gossamer—between 1 per cent and 5 per cent of the 1600 people listed in the Unionist list in 1974 are not named of those who murder in the name of a bogus "Irish" patriotism. I watched successive Irish comments tolerate the criminal activities of the half-styled Irish Republican Army for half a century. During most of that time it has been an illegal organization in the British State and the Republic. We have recently seen a British Government spokesman in the United Nations state that the tragedy in Northern Ireland is of purely intrinsic domestic concern to British and therefore

subject to international debate. I am sure a good British Government would not do that. I believe that the figure is 97 per cent of the population on criminal charges of terrorism in the North are United Kingdom citizens. We have seen Irish civilians murdered by British troops in Dublin (23 May), in Manchester and elsewhere, and we have heard that the British authorities, including the intrinsic Ulster Kingdom, either cannot or do not arrest the criminals, or indeed would our dead as we do ours. We see IRA leaders, we are in the run here, featured on the British news service, being hounded from our own TV screen, day after day, that the Irish Republic is a haven for terrorists, and at least until this week we have seen on TV those people parading through London with police escort. We have been watching at least three or four Irish authorities, the result has been harmful immediate. A bill is under deliberation in Dail Eireann will compel Mr Jenks' Bill in the British Parliament.

But almost immediately the same travesty is in danger of recurrence in another form. The Act to outlaw the terrorists in the United Kingdom is now being described as an Act to outlaw the IRA. It is therefore a danger of being interpreted as an Act against the people of Ireland as such. But the atrocities committed by Ulster are not solely the work of the IRA. The British are at the moment, as the "Nationalist" so does the Ulster Defence Association claim that if "Loyalists" loyal to whom? To Paisley, to Craig? To the Queen, to any British government that has as yet existed, are likely to be dead children of the bombed city. The end result is in part of the United Kingdom, a victim of terrorism, or of the Irish people, and not necessarily even a these who style themselves the IRA. The English are at least being more just, but the should not be aroused against the British for we are abused too against the Birmingham bombers and all against the shame, that the British should share with the United Kingdom in the shame that we must a share for what has been going on for so long and shows a sign of ending in Belfast and Londonderry and Strabane and Newry, as well as in Dublin and Lough.

point in the year, but it is only on New Year's Eve that I cannot bear the thought.

I defeated it once, and once only. I was in Barbados, in company that would draw three souls out of one waverer; the previous year I had been in the same company, but we had ventured forth, and this year we determined to keep ourselves to ourselves. As the clock began to strike, somebody thought that, since we were no more than 20 yards from the Caribbean, which was warm as bath-water, we ought to greet the New Year actually standing in the water, "striking" our glasses, we stamped across the beach, Levin, with his irritating habit of looking after number one in such a fashion that he can plausibly maintain that he is also looking after the other folk, clutched not only his glass but the bottle. (I had worked out, between the first chime and the second, that since it would be very dark out there, then some wanted replenishment would have to come and find me, which was better than my having to go and find them.)

Further along the beach, fire works burst over the surf; music floated down from the steel bank. The sea lapped at my knees, and only for an insignificant brief flash of time did I think how easy and how agreeable, it would be to sink quietly beneath its surface, with a goblet in one hand and a Dom Perignon bottle in the other, and, after life's fitful fever, sleep well. But then a massive sunburst broke above us from the fireworks display; it lit up simultaneously my friend and the sea, and the New Year was in, and the moment had passed. "We have heard the chimes at midnight, Master Shallow." That we have, that we have, that we have, our watchword was "them, boys". I do not know what my watchword will be this year, but let us hope that

... just as all the neighbours, on the wall.
Are drawing a long breath to shout, 'Hoop!'"
The strangest whim has seized me; after all, I think I will not hang myself today.

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Constanze FitzGibbo

Peland (47-48), who entered believing to be a weight-lifter, is a deflated winner Eric Morley above his head with one arm and burst him to the floor crying: "Don with capitalism! Morley, being himself off, so that next year they will screw contestants for their sexual and political credentials, too.

December
Record Christmas spend spree spite of crisis. Government deal with unions limit increases to 20 per cent next year. In return works got extended the week holiday over Christmas and New Year period and Government ministers who a foundation of the year, a fallish in his first week, as Conservative leader, fume against such a state and calls for Government National Unity command financiers, businessmen, post-educators, arctic officers, Callaghan, New Year prep work, Christmas, massive "Tory" and coldest winter of 1974. Cotswold snails surface New Zealand. Queen in Christmas message, forecasts difficult year ahead.

PH

Now the Turks must decide what to do with the part of Cyprus they won

Why I can never revel in the New Year

Sombre looking Turkish troops stand guard over the forlorn flotilla of pleasure boats moored round the once picturesque Kyrenia harbour. An austere bust of Ataturk stands in the main square, and Turkish flags flutter from the battlements of Kyrenia Castle. This is the front door of Turkish Cyprus.

Five months after the invasion, the Turks have imposed their desired majority in the north of Cyprus. More than 40,000 Turkish Cypriots have filtered there from the south of the island, and the remaining 20,000 in the Greek arcus are arriving at the rate of about 100 a day. With only 13,000 of the former Greek population of 160,000 in this area north of the Attila Line left, the ethnic and geographic partition of Cyprus is almost complete.

The power that 36,000 troops affords has placed the Turks in control of 49 per cent of the island. In this area they have more than 80 per cent of tourist accommodation, about 60 per cent of agricultural export potential, more than £2,000m worth of land and buildings, and more than 60 per cent of the island's Turkish Cypriots are so eager to point out to foreign visitors: "Now all the Greeks have left its grapes."

Nevertheless, anyone asked to draw a comparison between the two areas at this stage would come to the conclusion that the Greeks were the victors and the Turks the vanquished. Faced with 200,000 displaced persons—about a third of their numbers—on top of their economic losses, the Greeks have been quick to adapt. Refugees have been absorbed in the houses of friends and relatives, into requisitioned hotels, apartment blocks and public buildings. So that today, fewer than 13,000 are refugees living in tents.

In the north, the Turks have been slow to exploit the fruits of their victory. The bulk of the rich citrus crop has been lost and the grain producing Messoria Plain has lain fallow so that no crop can be expected for at least a year. Though the Turks boast that they will resurrect the now dead hotel trade in the north, officially condoned



The Turks have the military power but have been slow to exploit the fruits of victory.

looting of deserted hotels continues. And, so bad has the Turkish record been on this score, Turkish families from the south find themselves inhabiting vacated Greek houses stripped bare. This has sparked off another cycle of looting.

Clearly, the problems facing the Turkish administration are great. Whereas the accommodation found for Greek refugees is temporary, the resentment of the Turks in the north is part of a campaign to ensure permanence. Housing is allocated on the basis of what a Turkish family owned in Limassol, Larnaca, Paphos or any other of the southern towns or villages. "It is only natural that a refugee family will tell you they left behind a mansion while in fact they lived in a shack," said a member of the administrative staff. "Hence the process of sifting is extremely important."

On top of that are the problems that partition (whether disguised in federation or not) impose. Kyrenia is the perfect example. So far the Turkish administration has flooded the town with as many as 3,500 Turkish Cypriots mostly from the Limassol area. All Greek Cypriot businesses have been taken over, and apart from the homes of the 500 Greek Cypriots who remained after the Turkish

invasion, the Turks have requisitioned all the houses. "Kyrenia is not Turkish or Greek but is foreign also," a Turkish Cypriot who shared a business with a Greek before the invasion said. "I like to look at it as a sort of Riviera. I don't know the Riviera, but I think in terms of a tourist town where all can feel at ease. We won the war. But the Kyrenia I see today is not the Kyrenia I wish to see. We must all sit down and decide what must be done for the future—otherwise all is lost."

As any visitor to the Turkish controlled north of Cyprus can see, it is with the Greek Cypriots that the skill in running hotels, restaurants and the like has been lost. The Turks have done their utmost to encourage the two main restaurants in Kyrenia—the Harbour and the Rad Shark—to get back into full swing. However, try as the respective owners may, they lack the trained staff who are now south of the dividing line. The same goes for the hotel trade.

Whatever it is called, partition has imposed its settlement on the island. However, for the Turks more than the Greeks this solution, brings difficult social problems. For instance, most of the Limassol Turks who now populate Kyrenia earned

their living from the docks. Short of a twice-a-week ferry to Turkey there is no dock work in Kyrenia. Few of the immigrants have savings, and live on a meagre dole. And since there is a strong force of dock workers in Famagusta, now in Turkish hands, it is unlikely they could find jobs there.

The fact remains that in the Greek administered south there is every indication that things are returning to normal. Prices are rising and everybody watches the level of Cyprus's foreign reserves—which have remained steady around £100m. However, the disaster which many felt would hit the community by now, has not come. The unusual spectacle of beggars on the streets near large refugee concentrations has disappeared. The danger of unemployment remains, but initial predictions of as much as 30 per cent have not been fulfilled. Furthermore, private construction and public works projects have begun to regenerate the economy.

"Give us five years," is the promise one hears even from a proud many Greek Cypriots. "and Turks or no Turks we will make the north look like the devastated Cyprus."

Paul Martin

On the other hand, New Year's Eve is almost unendurable, and it is no use pretending otherwise. I suppose we all have a day during the year (I sometimes think we have 365 of them) when life sits up and stares at us, accusing us (generally with much justice) of sin, failure and futility, insisting that we are not younger than we think, but if anything older, drawing pointed attention to our faults of character and the way in which we repeat our mistakes, sneering at our promises of amendment, and adding for good measure that we are getting fat. Most people, I believe, go through this annual stocktaking on their birthdays, but I find that increasingly sinister anniversary quite bearable and, when I am in the right company or circumstances, actually agreeable.

Others, no doubt, have the experience in question on their wedding anniversaries, when (as a bachelor I speak with some diffidence of these mysteries) the list of accusations is recited by life but by wife: but for me it is New Year's Eve which exactly fits Scrooge's description of Christmas:

... a time for paying bills without paying attention to the figures, for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and finding every item in them through a round dozen of months presented dead against you.

I have tried facing the Problem of New Year's Eve in every possible way. I have seen the New Year in at large parties and at small parties; I have spent it *à la carte*, sometimes at home and sometimes out; I have spent it alone by my own hearth and alone elsewhere; I have worn my funny hat; I have clasped hands and sung Auld Lang Syne; I have been to the Watch-Night Service at St Paul's; I have been among the crowd in Piccadilly Circus; I have burst into tears; I have switched the phone off and gone to bed before midnight and ignored the whole damned thing; and as far as I can recall I have, almost without exception, felt an overwhelming urge,

Bernard Levin

to start a new life." Hottest summer for years produces fresh crisis, as petrol doubles in price one Saturday night from £4 to £8 a gallon and thousands of motorists stranded at seaside.

September
At Conservative Party Conference, fresh crisis over leadership. Party split over Sir Keith Joseph's plan for progressive reverse taxation and family allowances. This means that poor people with large families have to pay more tax than anyone else. "This is a compassionate measure," says Sir Keith, "designed to encourage people to make sacrifices for themselves and for the country." Although he admits soon afterwards that his plan is misguided, it was great support and flesh, who opposes it, is hooded from platform. In snap vote on leadership, Robert Mellish is summoned from Scotland to give Conservatives the thrusting, disciplined leadership they need. Stock market up again.

October
Great disappointment as North Sea oil begins to flow and it is found to be a vegetable oil, more suitable for cooking than for fuel. World price of cooking oil drops alarmingly and we have to give barrels of stuff

away with Concordes. Large mystery order from Bordeaux, where oil is to be used "for development of wine industry".

November
Miss World contest introduces for the first time a virginity test for competitors. All contestants fail to qualify except Miss

The Times Diary

The year the snails got it right

disqualified when Margaret Thatcher discovers he has friends who are Liberals and that he has in his cricket bag a large bar of curry powder. Edward Heath elected to leadership to give Conservatives a new, thrusting image. Government announce further delay in introduction of Public Landings Right for anglers. Bridgid Brophy writes angrily to *The Times*.

April
Government introduce legislation to enshrine freedom of the press. The post of editor is to be abolished and all newspapers to be run by workers' collectives. Readers of *The Times* lobby Parliament to try to get Daily Editors abolished as well. First action by workers' collective on *The Times* is to ban all reference in the paper to Public Landings Right, as the most boring and unimportant issue of the decade. Ban widely welcomed by all readers except Bridgid Brophy, who writes angrily to *The Times*. Duffy, Stock market d-

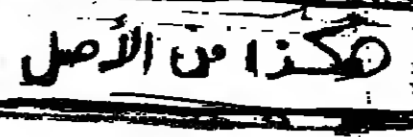
February
Warmest February since records began, confounding predictions based on observation of snails in the Cotswolds, who were burrowing to a record depth. A spokesman for the snails, in an interview, explains that they were not trying to get away from the weather but from the prevailing gloom. In Australia, England's cricket team reduced to three fit men, who all have to bat three times. Sir Alec Douglas-Home, following his triumphant report on the Conservative leadership crisis, flies out to England cricket captaincy. Sir Alec pressed to play in test, scores no runs but wins praise for demeanour and sportsmanship. Stock market down.

March
Conservative leadership crisis reaches climax. Latest surprise contestant is Mike Denness, England cricket captain, who limps back defeated but sportsmanlike from Australian tour and throws bat in ring. Defeats all comers on first ballot but

January
New concept in January sales. Instead of cutting prices, stores increase them, but by an amount lower than would be justified by the rate of inflation. Country beset by the noise of sales, bombs and financial collapses. Latest shortages are of envelopes and curry powder, caused by *Financial Times* survey which showed that, due to population trends,

PH

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS



For Saving Investing and House-Purchase HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY

For Saving Investing and House-Purchase HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY

Pressure grows for guidance on rescue policy for secondary banks

By Christopher Wilkins Banking Correspondent Pressure is mounting on the Bank of England and the clearing banks to state publicly what policy they will now adopt towards the secondary bank rescue operation...

of Triumph Investment Trust, which until November had been receiving support from the rescue consortium...

French will trim nuclear power plants programme

Paris, Dec 30.—France is to reexamine her nuclear power programme next month in the light of rising costs and financing problems...

Gold slips after nearing \$200 barrier

By Tio Congdon After being poised to break the \$200 an ounce barrier in the morning, the gold price fell back heavily on the London bullion market yesterday afternoon...

Libya ends American oil embargo as further step to normal relations

By Roger Vielvoys Libya has lifted its 14 month-long embargo on oil exports to the United States. Without any official announcement the oil companies operating in the Libyan deserts have been told they are free to resume exports to any destination they like...

Directors in building society merger row

Directors left the hall as uproar erupted yesterday at a meeting called by the Bournehead and Christchurch Building Society to discuss its proposed merger with the larger Portland Building Society...

Anti-trust study of sale plan

The United States Justice Department said yesterday that it was investigating the proposal by Westinghouse Electric Corporation to sell its major household appliance division to White Consolidated Industries...

Chrysler prices up by 7.8 pc

Chrysler yesterday announced price increases averaging 7.8 per cent to take effect from tomorrow. The increases follow similar price rises from British Leyland, Ford and Vauxhall earlier this month...

Forecast of cut in housing starts

Builders in November were extending their backlog of 135,000 private houses and flats in Britain during 1975 according to figures published yesterday by the Department of the Environment...

Steel stockist shares sag in Paris

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 30.—Shares of Marine-Firminy, the holding company, which controls 50 per cent of Creusot-Loire, the largest French manufacturer of special steels and boilers for nuclear reactors today fell by 8.5 per cent, from 149 francs on December 20, when quotations were suspended by order of the Paris Bourse authorities...

Shipbuilders to press for decentralization

By Peter Hill Britain's shipbuilding industry, one of the prime candidates for further public ownership under the Government's industrial policy, will press Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Minister for Industry, for a fully decentralized structure...

Sun Life and CU cut policy benefits

By Our Financial Staff Sun Life and Commercial Union yesterday joined the rapidly increasing ranks of big life companies forced to cut benefits in view of the dismal economic and financial conditions. As from the start of the year CU will reduce surrender values of its life policies...

General Mining raising £12 1/2m in rights issue

By Our Mining Correspondent General Mining, the Afrikaans mining finance house, is raising the equivalent of £12 1/2m by way of a rights issue on the basis of 12 new ordinary shares for every 100 held at R32 a share...

Inflation hits gas pipeline

Washington, Dec 30.—Alaskan Arctic Gas Pipeline Co expects inflation to add \$1,000m (about \$425m) to the cost of its proposed 2,600-mile pipeline, according to Mr W. W. Brackett, the vice-president...

Channel tunnel companies postpone their claims on Whitehall for compensation

By Derek Harris Although midnight tonight marks the technical abandonment of the present Channel tunnel scheme, the tunnel companies now making initial borings on either side of the Channel appear to have postponed their threatened confrontation with the Government...

Channel tunnel companies postpone their claims on Whitehall for compensation

Unilateral abandonment could, according to the latest computations, cost about £16m more than a later jointly agreed abandonment. Cost of compensation to all cases would be split equally between the two governments...

MANGANESE BRONZE HOLDINGS LIMITED. Extracts from the Report and Accounts to 31st July, 1974. Table with columns for 1974 and 1973, and rows for ISSUED SHARE CAPITAL, CONSOLIDATED RESERVES, DEFERRED TAXATION, PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, Engineering Group Turnover, Profit on Trading, Interest, Profit before Tax, Profit after Corporation Tax payable, Earnings per Ordinary Share before extraordinary items.

Shareholders will vote on payment to Tory funds. The board of Associated Engineering, the Leamington Spa motor industry components group, is to ask shareholders to approve a payment of £7,500 to the Conservative Party to help in the fight against the Government's nationalization plans...

How the markets moved. Table with columns for Rises, Falls, and The Pound. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

THE SCOTTISH AND MERCANTILE INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED. Highlights from The Chairman's Statement. PERFORMANCE: Investment income improved from £309,634 to £379,267... DIVIDENDS: Proposed final Ordinary Dividend 1.4625p per share... ASSOCIATED COMPANY/SUBSIDIARIES: Hall, Russell & Company, principal operating company of Northern Shipbuilding & Industrial Holdings...

On other pages. Table listing various business appointments, vacancies, and reports.

Chrysler... des talk... losures... Royce energy... of £1.6m

IMF leader says monetary growth helped to fuel worldwide inflation

Washington, Dec 30.—Mr Johannes Witteveen, international monetary fund managing director, considers that partial measures designed to hold down the price of particular goods and services in the battle against inflation are of little use.

BIM head fears toughest year for half a century

Next year will probably be the most difficult for half a century, Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of the British Institute of Management, says in his new year message, published today.

Economist sees 'ultimate ruin' in UK inflation

By Tim Congdon Professor Laidler, of Manchester University, says in a new pamphlet from the Institute of Economic Affairs: "We are two or three stop-go cycles away from ultimate ruin in this country."

Study of scrap market patterns from EEC soon

By Peter Hill Forecasts of European supply and demand for scrap during the next five years, to be published next month, will have important implications for Britain's scrap industry, which, from tomorrow, will be able to export freely to Europe after nearly 40 years of restrictions.

French see slowdown in advance of retail prices

With the announcement today by the French finance ministry that retail prices in November rose by 0.9 per cent, M Jean-Pierre Fourcade claimed that the first objective of the government in the battle against inflation had been achieved.

The highest increase was recorded in clothing, 1.6 per cent, and food, 1 per cent. Manufactured goods and services, on the other hand, showed a distinct slowing down last month by comparison with October when they stood at 1.3 per cent and 1.6 per cent respectively.

The minister pointed out that over the twelve-month period from November 1973, retail prices have risen by 14.9 per cent, and the rate of increase last three recorded months compared to Germany's 7 per cent.

Teheran signs LNG export deal

Iran and a consortium of American and Belgian companies have signed a joint venture deal for export of 3,000 million cu ft of liquefied natural gas in the United States and Europe, according to an official communiqué stated in Teheran.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Job evaluation and the classic Micawber situation

From Mr W. F. Younger Sir, Professor Innis Macbeath's article on "How to get fair wages for all" (December 9) was very interesting. From his commitments, however, I wonder whether Professor Macbeath or the author of PEP's Reshaping Britain are aware that:

- 1. Several hundred companies in Britain already pay their staff on the basis of various forms of job evaluation. 2. At least two hundred companies correlate their internal evaluations on a common basis to market pay comparisons, so that their pay arrangements do take into account the labour market within which they are operating, whether those markets are influenced by their industrial sector, geographic location, type of technology, labour intensity or historical factors.

Much of the discussion about national job evaluation is bedeviled by confusion between evaluation of internal ranking order of jobs on the one hand and the placing of a money amount on these relative internal values on the other. Agreement on internal evaluation can usually be achieved harmoniously, provided the evaluations are based on the consensus judgement of knowledgeable people working systematically to agreed and understood procedures.

Common front for agriculture

From Mr B. N. Howell Sir, it is encouraging to see that so eminent a practical farmer as Mr Anthony Rosen supports the view that all agricultural interests should present a common front. I would like to add, however, that they should be joined by the private forestry industry.

It is just not grasped by the people of this country that, by the late 1980s, timber imports, currently running at nearly £2,000m per year, will cost more than oil. This is all the more inexcusable since we have the land available and the right climate for increasing home production.

A substantial contribution to a huge deficit is proposed by the present Government, who are actually proposing that the new capital transfer tax should tax timber crops several times over they are harvested—each time their custodian, the owner for the time being, dies. Already the threat of this tax is calculated to be costing the country £240m in the early years of the next century because the private sector will plant 20,000 acres less this winter than originally expected.

First ICL 2900 system delivered on time

International Computers' first 2900-series computer to be delivered to a customer, a large ICL 2970, was despatched on time from the company's West Borton factory on December 19.

Computer news

viding the service to Fulton, Haskyns will use the installation to demonstrate their modular applications systems; convert files; develop programs and offer normal bureau facilities.

has promoted it also in civil applications such as message switching and in steel mills and power stations.

The system is now being installed for the Government's Central Computer Agency at CL premises at Bracknell, Berkshire. It will be known as the Central Computer Facility.

Hoskyns IBM move Under a facilities management contract with Charles Fulton and Company, international money brokers, the Hoskyns group is to take over the management of Fulton's IBM 370 computer. This will become the nucleus of Hoskyns' first IBM systems centre, offering a range of services.

Coral language time A GEC 4080 computer is to be used by the Royal Radar Establishment at Malvern, Worcestershire, in developing the real-time language Coral 66 (Computer On-line Real-time Applications Language) on behalf of government departments and industry.

Comshare in Belgium Belgian clients of the Comshare bureau group are now able to use the computing facilities of the group's dual Sigma 9 computer in Chelsea at local telephone rates in the Brussels area.

Believed to cost well over £m, the new system will be used to assess the suitability of 900 hardware and software for government users. Realistic testing of software for government applications will be carried out.

During 1975 the Fulton computer will be moved to the Hoskyns office in Farringdon Road, London. As well as providing the service to Fulton, Haskyns will use the installation to demonstrate their modular applications systems; convert files; develop programs and offer normal bureau facilities.

The establishment pioneered this language, which has been selected by the Ministry of Defence as a standard language for military programming, and

in the United States yesterday Mr Frederick Dent, Commerce Secretary, announced that all controls on exports of ferrous scrap would be lifted from midnight tonight.

Creusot and Iran link

French and Iranian steel companies are to cooperate in the establishment of a speciality steel mill in Iran with an annual capacity of 200,000 tons of ingots. The companies involved the Creusot-Loire SA and the Iran National Steel Co, which together are to form Iranian Special Steel.

US controls worked

The American Government's two-and-a-half-year economic controls programme, which ended last April, had a "positive and statistically significant" influence on stimulating capital investment by United States business, a government report stated in Washington yesterday.

What OPEC wants us to believe

from Mr R. O. Jackson Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Roger Vievoive, in his interesting article on crude oil pricing (December 12) fails to highlight one very important point. In saying that "the proponents of single pricing claim that it will not affect the end cost of oil to the consumer and will only squeeze the profitability of the oil companies," he repeats exactly what the OPEC members want us to believe.

foreign exchange cost of oil to the importing countries—the latest unilateral actions by more than another £1,500m per annum. How we decide the apportionment of oil costs between our own governments, oil companies and consumers, is surely our concern, and the shrewdness of OPEC public statements should not be allowed to make them appear as the consumers' friend when, clearly, they are not. Yours faithfully, R. O. JACKSON, 55 Burgess Road, Thorpe Bay, Essex.

German prediction

West Germany's 7.5 per cent inflation rate will drop another percentage point next year after new government economic directives were put into effect, the country's five key economic research institutes predicted yesterday.

Vanishing art of leadership

From Miss Anne de Lasta Sir, This grey Monday morning I was cheered up considerably by reading Mr F. Younger's article on industrial relations and the vanishing art of leadership (Business News, December 2). Yours faithfully, ANNE DE LASTA, 6 St James's Square, SW1.

Sea oil jobs

From Miss Margaret J. Joachim Sir, I was most interested to hear of the news recently that North Sea oil companies are suffering a shortage of geologists.

Five years ago, I graduated as a geologist, to obtain employment with several of these companies. My failure to do so was not because of inadequate or inappropriate qualifications, but of my sex. It was apparently impossible to employ a woman for anything other than the execution of routine laboratory procedures, as insuperable administrative difficulties and intolerable tensions would be created by her presence as a member of any field or exploration party. In view of the current scarcity of trained geologists, I would be most interested to know whether the oil companies are now prepared to employ women as geologists on the same terms as men. Women are not excluded from university geology courses, and there must be a considerable well of expertise waiting to be tapped. Yours faithfully, MARGARET J. JOACHIM, Department of Geological Sciences, The University of Birmingham.

Lloyds and Scottish Difficult year surmounted. Main points from the Statement by IAN W. MACDONALD, Chairman of the Board. Group Earnings... British Relay Wireless and Television... Caledonian Tractor Group... House of Clydesdale Group... Consolidated Profit Statement...

1972 'Confident of improved results for current year' 1973 'A year of real progress' 1974 '... a strong product line and a healthy order book' Orders booked for the year established a new record... From the Annual Statement by the Chairman, Mr. T. C. Hudson. International Computers think computers — think ICL ICL

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Strategies for 1975

So, we have come to the end of a catastrophic year for investors, apart, of course, from those like Mr Slater who opened for gold and cash, respectively the best and second-best investments of 1974.

Worse still, there is no sign of improvement. The early months of next year will probably be even more gloomy for the pessimists. For the moment, the likelihood is for no growth in the United Kingdom economy in 1975 while inflation runs on the wrong side of 10 per cent. In the short run, this, against a background of international trade slipping into recession or worse, forces investors into making their own decisions about whether disaster can be avoided, this time round at any rate.

For most people making that decision in the next three or four months will be well-nigh impossible. In this situation of acute uncertainty, ordinary shares probably have further to fall. As some points during the first half of 1975 it would not be surprising to see the FT ordinary share index as low as 120-130. Meanwhile, gilt, reflecting fears about exchange rates and uncertainties about inflation and interest rates, will continue to outpace, particularly at the short end, of the market.

Beyond that the ground prices have changed so much that even now it is not possible to see in terms of moving in at the bottom. Just where the bottom is depends not so much on the duration of the world recession already upon us, but on the success of the United States and German governments' moves to contain it. It depends on the future price of oil—in the context of rumours of war—and on the future level of inflation, and at home it depends on action by the Government to counter stagflation.

Thus, gold may continue for the moment to provide the most profitable high-risk investment, while cash, yielding up to 12 per cent, will provide the safest haven for the more cautious, albeit an unprofitable one in real terms.

While this danger is now being cited, one must assume that crude oil prices will remain at least at their present levels in the foreseeable future, and that OPEC producers would reduce their output as they saw demand falling heavily and as the squeeze on the international oil companies became intolerable.

Margins are already being squeezed hard. Shell's total integrated oil trading margin (excluding stock profits) is probably under the 10 per cent barrier mark now compared with around 50 cents in the third quarter. Demand is probably inelastic enough in the short-term to allow some improvement in selling prices to be higher, particularly for gas. But in the longer term alternative fuels and the downswing in the trade cycle will reduce demand. Refining margins would therefore be under very severe pressure indeed, as spare capacity rises.

In this context Shell was probably fortunate to have just over a half of its third quarter net income of £304m coming from North America and from gas and chemicals earnings outside North America. Of that, only the chemical element (say, £45m) looks vulnerable. BP, on the other hand, has only its United Kingdom gas operations and chemicals representing around 10 to 15 per cent of earnings as an asset against oil. Pre-Alaska, North American earnings will be confined to dividends from Sola.

Where one can look for investment opportunities in the United States and the United States. North Sea activity has visibly declined because of the Labour Government's tax proposals and any other softer approach towards oil exploration, could mean a short-term rally in shares.

BP's in particular, in the United States government company horse trading over the differential taxing of oil from "old" and "new" wells will probably provide equivalent return excitement for oil stock prices.

A speedy switch into fixed interest stocks on signs that recession is really going to bite could pay off handsomely: a three-point fall in interest rates could leave present holders of War Loan, for example, with a capital gain of over 20 per cent to their credit, quite apart from a preferable income which is nearly in line with inflation.

Apart from the odd anomaly, equities should probably be left alone—unless there are deflationary moves by the Government whose effects will be speedy enough for investors to take profits before the possible longer-term implications of such policies sink in.

Investment in oil shares is for the short-term investor only. Short-term upward and downward movements in prices can be expected during the year for both London and Wall Street quoted oil majors.

The two broad scenarios facing oil companies are hardly such as to attract institutional investors back, except to unload stock into the market, as some United States institutions have been doing recently, on any rally.

One prospect would have effects so far-reaching as to be hardly worth mentioning in the event. This is the possibility of a further Israel-Arab conflict where the United States, whether instigator or not, took over oil production in retaliation against any further Arab embargo.

It would be unduly harsh justice to put it all down to the secondary banks and the Eucurrency market. Most of the secondary banks have felt the backwash of both crises, but the clearers have emerged unscathed at least in direct terms.

Never before have they looked so vulnerable to the unforeseen. The £3m foreign exchange loss by Lloyds, one of the more conservative in its currency dealings, was a clear pointer to how difficult it is for any bank to prevent the occasional disaster. Equally unerving is the question of how much of the £200m fringe bank surplus will ultimately be recoverable, and where the operation goes from there.

Lloyds and Scottish, one of the few finance houses to have steered clear of most secondary bank symptoms, has pointed out that its losses as a result cannot recover their loss of

status until the supporting banks clarify their intentions. In a different way, the same holds true of the clearers themselves. To the market it seems certain that there must be losses at the current level of fringe bank commitment, but to judge by National & Commercial's accounts the banks will be making no specific provision on this score in the present year. Ignoring the issue will do nothing to satisfy the doubts.

As it is, rising bad debt experience is expected to mean other provisions that will knock some nasty (although by no means crippling) holes in profits, turning useful gross increases into pre-tax downturns in most cases.

In other areas, there are question marks. Balance-sheet ratios have come under pressure, generating rumours of imminent rights issues. Worry about the banks might not be able to meet soaring industrial financing needs in 1975 (now receding somewhat) have raised the old spectre of government intervention. And although none of this need mean more than a relatively modest overall profit fall in 1975 (even with the prospect of rising costs and, perhaps, falling interest rates), it could suggest that bank ratings will not command quite the same premiums as hitherto if and when we have a bull market again.

Jensen, already using a much cheaper Chrysler engine in its new Interceptor, and later a Lotus engine in its two-litre Healey sports car, lacked only two things. It needed short-term finance to put it on its feet again and to pay for a major foreign market place. It got both from Mr Ovale.

Although Jensen is now in serious trouble after the near-collapse of the American market, it should remain a going concern by pushing through a large redundancy programme. If it weathers the present

storm it has the right formula for survival.

Aston Martin has none of these things. It is owned by accountants and financiers, men who have in the main made their profits in house building and property development.

There are those in the motor industry who believe that Wilson was attracted by the cheapness of the Aston Martin purchase. No official figure has been given: silence was apparently requested by Sir David Brown as a condition of the sale by the David Brown Corporation.

But the company is widely believed to have cost Company Developments only £250,000, with David Brown paying off Aston's large bank overdraft and settling its debts to the extent of its reported assets.

"I think this is one occasion when an accountant let his heart overrule his head" was how one prominent motor industry executive put it.

Mr Wilson was well aware of the industry's scepticism, and more than a little offended by reports that after a judicious lapse of time he would close down, realizing Aston Martin's considerable assets at Newport Pagnell. He said: "The British and proud people of the world are one of Britain's finest products and

governed by self interest was that to amend the Health and Safety at Work Act to confine the right to elect safety representatives to elect safety representatives. It is the unions' job to extend their membership by more energetic recruitment and better organization, not by using the law to weaken the safeguards against industrial disease for the half of the employed population not among their members.

The TUC succeeded in inducing Mr Foot to leave it to itself to set up an independent appeal body for individuals expelled by or refused admission to a union where there is a closed shop. The TUC plan provides no time limit for internal consideration of a complaint before an appeal can be made and no means of enforcement.

In view of previous union opposition to any such body, it is questionable whether the arrangements will enable the now proposed to become effective.

In any case, it will not, as the Donovan Commission recommended, have the power to award compensation or to deal with alleged unfair penalties or election malpractices, or to refer to the High Court, with alleged breach of union rules or violations of natural justice.

The coming year will further test the unions' use of their power in a situation of acute economic difficulty. Many people are to be found in the corridors of Whitehall as well

as outside it, who fear that the outcome, resulting partly from soaring wages, will be a threat to the democratic system.

Some envisage that the Government will be forced by economic circumstances to take steps which will involve left-wing members will find intolerable, so that the Government will split and a new political orientation will be necessary. Others imagine the Government forced to adopt extreme measures which would provoke a ground-roots revolution and possibly a right-wing backlash.

In the short term such crisis situations are conceivable only in the event of extreme external economic pressures which may come about. But sooner or later, in any case, the strength of the unions in relation to government will cause strife more damaging than the three-day week unless the balance of power and responsibility is reshaped.

The first two socialist goals, as set out in the Labour Party's Programme for Britain last year, were to bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people and their families" and "to make power fully accountable to the community, to workers and to the consumer."

The shift in power, if not in wealth, is already taking place; some might say, has already taken place. But how is the power gained by the workers and their organizations to be made accountable to the community and to the consumer?

In 1919, when the Establishment was even more fearful of trade union power than it is today, the Ministry of Labour in Whitehall tried to find the only adequate solution was to give the unions a share in the control of industry so that they would develop a feeling of responsibility.

The Cabinet ignored the advice and the conflict came in 1926, the year of the General Strike and of a miners' lock-out which lasted seven months. By the time, and through most of the inter-war years, the power of the workers and their unions was sapped by high unemployment.

Plans for sharing responsibility through joint controlling bodies, drawn up for industry as a whole by the 1919 National Industrial Conference and the 1927 Mond-Turner talks, and for all levels of individual industries by the Whitley Committee, were cast aside.

Since the last war, the power of the workers and unions has been rebuilt, but they still do not have a share in control such as necessitates the acceptance of responsibility. There is much talk at management seminars of experiments in worker participation. The National Economic Development Council contains the seeds of a Parliament of Industry. But these are only beginnings.

The most important development next year (assuming there is no cataclysm) will be the shaping of the Government's policy on industrial democracy. The Labour Party manifesto in September promised a radical extension in both the private and public sectors.

But it is doubtful if even far-reaching legislation in those fields will be an adequate reflection of the shift in

Aston Martin: a company lacking the formula for survival

There have been doubts about the future of Aston Martin Lagonda, which has announced that it is going into liquidation, ever since it was purchased in February, 1972, by Company Developments, investment bankers, of Solihull, Warwickshire.

These doubts were based partly on the new owners' lack of motor manufacturing experience but more importantly on the view that the operation at Newport Pagnell did not conform with the survival formula for handmade, specialist car manufacturers.

Worldwide, the survivors of this once flourishing sector of the motor industry can now be counted on the fingers of one hand. Almost without exception they have one or more of three lifelines: ownership by a leading engineering or motor group, the use of a suitable engine and other important components produced in volume and therefore at reasonable cost and access to a well-established marketed network overseas.

For instance, Ferrari went to Fiat, and Maserati looked up with Citroën. Ford bought Tomaso. Jensen was acquired by Kjel Ovale, a Norwegian-American who made his fortune selling British sports cars in the United States and possessed a sales network tailor-made for Jensen.

In the case of Ferrari and Maserati they had chosen a major profit-making engineering excellence, while their new partners benefited from the technological spin-off and prestige advertising.

Jensen, already using a much cheaper Chrysler engine in its new Interceptor, and later a Lotus engine in its two-litre Healey sports car, lacked only two things. It needed short-term finance to put it on its feet again and to pay for a major foreign market place. It got both from Mr Ovale.

Although Jensen is now in serious trouble after the near-collapse of the American market, it should remain a going concern by pushing through a large redundancy programme. If it weathers the present



The first Aston Martin car appeared in 1913, deriving its name from Lionel Martin, who built it, and the Aston Citron Hill climb, where it made its mark. It was originally assembled from other people's components and it was not until the 1920s that an Aston Martin appeared with entirely self-engineered parts. It was a thoroughbred which started a long line of record-breakers on the world's motor racing circuits. The most famous of these was the DB series (an example of which, the DB5, is shown above) which won the World's Sportscar Championship in 1959.

Financially the company was never very successful and after having a number of owners it was bought in 1946 by David Brown, an Aston enthusiast and the head of the David Brown Corporation. Company Developments acquired the whole of the stock capital on February 16, 1972.

A rush of advice for American gold buyers

Americans can today buy gold bullion. The 11-year-old United States ban on private bullion ownership has been lifted and, according to some gold enthusiasts, a new gold rush is on the way. No one really knows just what is going to happen and the level of real demand alone will decide whether this event will warrant more than a mere footnote in the history books.

Journalists, economists and so-called gold experts have all written a great deal recently about the complex interplay of monetary factors that will determine the volume of American bullion buying. The major influence, however, may well be the skills of the marketing experts in the face of thundering warnings by government officials on the risks of owning gold.

Education has been the first theme of the marketing specialists.

The educational programme has by no means been restricted in discussions in plush convention centres and hotels. Dozens of organizations have produced special brochures about the best ways to acquire bullion.

Five commodity exchanges are striving to get business for their new futures markets. Each is spending heavily to tell the public that it is better equipped to handle bullion deals than its rivals. The big stock brokers, such as Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith are seeking to convince the public that the people to see for gold investment advice.

Retail stores are by no means being left out of the gold game, although many are still in the confused state of what they thought to be doing.

Tiffany's of New York has no plans to sell gold bars.

At Neiman Marcus in Texas, (which, by the way, is a store that goes in for selling such lavish things as fur coats) a number of seminars by former Wimbledon champion John Newcombe for \$4,000 a top executive frankly admitted that selling gold bars was under consideration, but that a final decision had still to be made.

A similar reaction is being shown by the Woodward and Lothrop chain of stores, but such positions as Bloomingdale's in New York and Gannick's in Washington stated flatly that they will not be selling gold in any form other than jewelry.

Most of the country's biggest banks will have some bullion, on offer at their main branches. Smaller banks around the country appear to be uncertain. Some have firmly ruled out the idea, and one executive at Washington's National City Bank admitted wryly that the only gold the bank would ever have "is the gold in our teeth."

Confronting the marketing skills of the businessmen is the inquisitiveness of government officials. The Administration has decided that in a major effort must be made to dampen public demand. Such agencies as the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Securities and Exchange Commission are all issuing rules to the banks and businesses they regulate, that will effectively reduce the enthusiasm of many of these companies to sell gold.

The regulatory agencies and the Treasury have just issued a warning against the sale of dampening gold demand. The officials note, for example, that people should "be wary of strangers offering gold for sale. Be sceptical of promises of spectacular profits. Resist pressures to make hurried decisions. Be suspicious of claims of new processes to extract gold. Seek independent advice. Consider all the great risks. Do not invest in gold unless you are sure you can afford to lose it."

The Treasury firmly believes that its campaign will have the desired results. The irony, however, is that the Treasury may well turn out to be the largest single seller of bullion.

Beyond the Treasury's campaign is an attempt to depress the market price through large sales, thereby illustrating the high risks of gold purchasing. Fully two million ounces of Treasury gold will be auctioned on January 6, and there will be further auctions, officials say. If demand is strong, the auctions could, of course, stimulate rather than deflate demand and that of course, is the big hope of the American businessmen now deeply involved in the gold game.

Wilson again went to the Government for help. This time to the tune of £250,000.

On October 29 Mr Benn indicated that he was now ready to help with a loan of £600,000 but insisted on several conditions—and that is where the present conflict between Aston Martin and Mr Benn becomes a little murky.

Aston Martin insists that the deal fell through because it was required to obtain firm orders from its American dealers as a condition of government assistance. But the dealers in turn insisted that the money from the Government must be placed in the Government.

The department's version differs. It says the loan was conditional among other things on a satisfactory marketing arrangement with an American distributor who, it claimed, Aston Martin had already indicated was ready to do the job. In the event no such arrangement was concluded and the offer fell through.

Sad to report, during October the company's remarkable all-alloy 5.3 litre engine, with its racing-type overhead camshafts, successfully completed the United States 50,000 mile emission test programme.

The chances of another last-ditch rescue by a buyer must now be remote, but members of the Aston Martin Owners' Club, who have already made individual offers of cash help, are still hoping.

A member who regularly competes on race circuits in an Aston said last night: "One of the problems is that the present car is no longer bought by the real Aston enthusiasts. It is now a grown £12,000 Grand Tourer which has moved a long way from its sporting heritage. It is too heavy and too thirsty."

Nevertheless, there is still a demand for it from people wanting prestige motoring in places like the United States and Japan. If we can keep the company going in some way there is always hope that one day we shall see Aston Martin racing to the light, fast car for the enthusiast."

I intend to see that it stays that way."

When he took over, production was down in two cars a week with losses running at £1m a year. Within 13 months production had reached nine cars a week, and Mr Wilson told the Aston Martin Owners' Club:

"We have passed the break-even figure of eight cars a week. If we can reach our ultimate target of 12 cars a week we shall be making excellent use of our existing facilities."

By July, however, Mr Wilson was applying to the Department of Industry for financial assistance to the tune of £500,000. When this leaked out he angrily claimed that the company was in trouble publicly about bringing the hounds baying at his door.

In fact, he claimed, government money was needed to finance a costly engineering and test programme to enable Aston Martin cars to conform to United States exhaust emission standards.

Although Mr Benn rejected the application the test programme went ahead at a reported cost of £200,000.

By September, however, Aston Martin was in serious trouble with sales falling and a major flow crisis in its hands. On September 23 Mr

Clifford Webb

Eric Wigham on the need to balance power with accountability

Giving unions their share of responsibility

This year the trade unions have defeated one government and secured the election of another and they have achieved their aim. They have reached the highest peak of their power.

In some respects they have used their power in a high-handed way. The employers' side has been left in a state of confusion. The unions formulated the terms of a social contract with the Government without bringing the organized employers in.

Indeed, they apparently regarded their obligations under it as their own affair, which they were free to alter at will without consulting the other party to the contract, as when they changed their minimum wage target from £25 to £30.

Some of the employers' criticisms of the one-sided nature of the proposals for the Employment Protection Bill are justified. They complained that it was offensive to accept proposals for legislation from one side of industry and allow the other side to comment only after the proposals had been published.

The Confederation of British Industry had a strong point when it contended that employers, no less than unions, should have the right to refer recognition disputes to the Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Employers are sometimes the worst sufferers from rival union claims for recognition.

The proposal most obviously

governed by self interest was that to amend the Health and Safety at Work Act to confine the right to elect safety representatives to elect safety representatives. It is the unions' job to extend their membership by more energetic recruitment and better organization, not by using the law to weaken the safeguards against industrial disease for the half of the employed population not among their members.

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The coming year will further test the unions' use of their power in a situation of acute economic difficulty. Many people are to be found in the corridors of Whitehall as well

as outside it, who fear that the outcome, resulting partly from soaring wages, will be a threat to the democratic system.

Some envisage that the Government will be forced by economic circumstances to take steps which will involve left-wing members will find intolerable, so that the Government will split and a new political orientation will be necessary. Others imagine the Government forced to adopt extreme measures which would provoke a ground-roots revolution and possibly a right-wing backlash.

In the short term such crisis situations are conceivable only in the event of extreme external economic pressures which may come about. But sooner or later, in any case, the strength of the unions in relation to government will cause strife more damaging than the three-day week unless the balance of power and responsibility is reshaped.

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In 1919, when the Establishment was even more fearful of trade union power than it is today, the Ministry of Labour in Whitehall tried to find the only adequate solution was to give the unions a share in the control of industry so that they would develop a feeling of responsibility.

The Cabinet ignored the advice and the conflict came in 1926, the year of the General Strike and of a miners' lock-out which lasted seven months. By the time, and through most of the inter-war years, the power of the workers and their unions was sapped by high unemployment.

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Since the last war, the power of the workers and unions has been rebuilt, but they still do not have a share in control such as necessitates the acceptance of responsibility. There is much talk at management seminars of experiments in worker participation. The National Economic Development Council contains the seeds of a Parliament of Industry. But these are only beginnings.

The most important development next year (assuming there is no cataclysm) will be the shaping of the Government's policy on industrial democracy. The Labour Party manifesto in September promised a radical extension in both the private and public sectors.

But it is doubtful if even far-reaching legislation in those fields will be an adequate reflection of the shift in

power that has taken place. It will certainly not be so unless in some way it ensures that the democratic system's representatives share not only in the making of decisions but also in their implementation.

In the past year they have seemed greedy for power but not for responsibility. The TUC General Council in its report on industrial democracy actually proposed that workers' directors on supervisory boards should share in the decisions of the boards but still be free to press their case through collective bargaining, presumably including the use of their industrial power.

At lower levels, the TUC report advocated the extension of joint control through collective bargaining but had nothing to say about responsibility to see that collective bargains were observed. What overtures are taken by the Government to extend the area of joint decision-making should not only involve responsibility on all who share in decisions but also accountability to the community.

The unions have shown they have the strength to defeat the efforts of governments, whether Labour or Conservative, to limit their power. The way the governments set about it may have been misguided, but even have suggested the problem will in the end have to be solved not through restricting, but widening their powers by bringing the unions into the machinery of government.

Shop-floor power must be given the responsibility without which power is extremely dangerous." Sir Frederick Catherwood says in his new message as chairman of the British Institute of Management, and he promised detailed proposals from the Institute in the course of the year.

It will be interesting to see how they will be furthered, and we not look again at some of the past theories—for instance, guild socialism or the corporate state—to see whether they contain elements which could contribute to the creation of a new kind of democratic structure for our society?

Frank Vogl

Business Diary: Twenty questions • Midnight gold

This is the last Business Diary of 1974 and never have we been as busy to bid a year goodbye. Before wishing it good riddance, however, we did pick over the pieces to see if 1974 were still good for a little fun. We came up with 20 brain-teasers; and here, together with a couple of anecdotes from here and there, they are.

- 1 A British-based bank is to be de-nationalized tomorrow. Which one would that be?
- 2 How was New Year's Day this year different from last year's?
- 3 Who got which top City job partly because he had a sense of humour?
- 4 Which two economists were surprised to find themselves mentioned in the same breath this year?
- 5 How did the City in 1974 show that it thought our policemen were wonderful?
- 6 Who or what is Todaro?
- 7 Which City bank financed Todaro?
- 8 Name a trade union for strikers.
- 9 Which former chairman of the Federation of University Conservative and Unionist Associations was redeployed in August?
- 10 Can you see a social contract?
- 11 What were UU Textiles, Bridon and AAR called before they decided to storten their names?
- 12 One of the following institutions this year proposed an index-linked savings scheme for 1975: the Life Offices, the Department of National Savings, the building societies. Which one?
- 13 A former railway porter became a director of a national newspaper in 1974. Do you know who and of which?
- 14 What did Campbell Adams have in common with the Prime Minister this year?
- 15 What could Edward Heath possibly be doing in common



and Matthew's at the Treasury in a department trying to estimate the chaos that would follow our withdrawal from the EEC."

- ANSWERS
- 1 National and Grindlays Bank, which becomes Grindlays Bank.
 - 2 This year New Year's Day was added to a list of official public holidays.
 - 3 Robert Fell, who tomorrow becomes the Stock Exchange's first chief executive. One of the qualities sought when the job was advertised was a sense of humour.
 - 4 Friedrich von Hayek and Gunnar Myrdal respectively right and left-wing economists, who were this year awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics.
 - 5 By floating a £500,000 one-year bond at 12 1/2 per cent on behalf of the Metropolitan Police.
 - 6 The Ronald Milnech company which bought 95 acres at Ince-in-Makerfield from

land reclaimer and former aide in the Prime Minister. Tony Field.

7 Cripps Warburg.

8 The Chalmers' and Strikers' Association.

9 Sir John Donaldson, until then president of the National Industrial Relations Court.

10 Sort of. The guidelines are set out in Collective Bargaining and the Social Contract. TUC Publications Department, 10p.

11 Unilever Underwear, British Ropes, Amalgamated Anthracite Holdings.

12 The Department of National Savings.

13 Sir Sidney Greene, General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen. The paper is The Times.

14 Adamson became Pipsman of the Year, a pipe industry award of which the Prime

A new year hope for Italian home seekers: their Government is studying a Bank of Italy scheme to institute special savings deposits for home ownership linked to the cost of living.

The basic idea is that prospective home buyers could deposit money in special savings accounts whose value would rise with the cost of living index. The value of the mortgages which could be granted on the basis of the savings accounts—and which would be allowed to cover up to 75 per cent of the purchase price of the property—would be linked to the index.

Italians working abroad would be eligible, as an inducement to return.

THE
MOSS ENGINEERING
GROUP LIMITED

Record Profits—38% up

Highlights for the year ended 31st August.

Turnover	£8,251,463	1973	£6,491,033
Profit before tax	£270,678		£483,642
Net Dividend per Ordinary Share (25p)	3.1658d		2.94p
Shareholders' Funds	£2,867,725		£2,263,858
Net assets per share	60.9p		47.6p

PROSPECTS

Extracts from the statement by Mr. Ernest Cars:

- Domestic forecast still point to an increase in both sales and profits for the current year.
- We are already ahead in comparison with the same period last year.
- I remain optimistic that our Group will continue its record of improvement.

Rand Selection Corporation Limited

Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa

The following extracts are from the review by the chairman, Mr. G. W. H. Rely

The past year witnessed a major event in the history of Rand Selection—the diversification of the corporation into the financial services field through the acquisition of Schlesinger Insurance and Institutional Holdings Limited (SIH). The acquisition has not only broadened the corporation's predominantly mining and mining financial portfolio but SIH's substantial interests in the life insurance, property development and banking fields will of course be enhanced by the backing of the group.

On 1st July 1974 the Rand Selection group, including SIH, acquired further interests in certain companies within the SIH group so that at the financial year-end the group's approximate interest in African Eagle Life Assurance Society Limited was 75 per cent, in Western Bank Limited was 60 per cent, in Sorec Limited was 47 per cent and in Metals & Minerals Investment Corporation Limited was 49 per cent while Premier Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited and Townsville Estates (Pty) Limited became wholly-owned subsidiaries. Although SIH held approximately 50 per cent of Schlesinger Insurance Investments Limited (SEI) at 30th September 1974 it is anticipated that following a proposed reorganisation of SEI's capital structure this interest will be reduced to 40 per cent and consequently the SEI group has not been consolidated.

Rand Selection's consolidated tax profit for the year ended 30th September 1974 was R43 911 000 and earnings a share, adjusted to reflect that profits from the new subsidiaries were received for only a portion of the year, amounted to 13.6 cents compared with 12.5 cents per share in the previous financial year. These higher earnings enabled dividends to be increased to 70 cents a share, 17.5 cents greater than in 1973 and 2.5 cents higher than the 67.5 cents forecast at the time of the SIH acquisition. The dividends absorbed R27 016 000 and an amount of R11 598 000 was transferred to reserves leaving R5 797 000 to be added to unappropriated profits.

Investment income benefited significantly this year from higher dividends flowing from the corporation's gold interests and rose by 52 per cent to R49 412 000. The results of the SIH group for the six months since 1st April 1974 were consolidated for the first time and the surplus, after tax, attributable to life insurance, contributed R2 759 000 and R1 121 000 respectively. In addition the financial activities of the SIH group gave rise to net operating income from finance of R906 000.

As a large part of Rand Selection's income is attributable to dividends from investments in financial and industrial companies such as Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited and Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company Limited, which do not distribute their earnings in full, the above results do not indicate the extent of the corporation's underlying strength. If the corporation's share of these undistributed profits, after adjusting for cross holdings, were to be taken into account total earnings would have amounted to 200 cents a share against 145 cents for the previous financial year.

It will be evident that although the consolidated assets of the expanded Rand Selection group have increased to R1 209 million at 30th September 1974, commensurate should be taken of the liabilities relating to the insurance and banking operations and thus the rise in the shareholders' equity interest is a more valid indication of the increased size of the group. If the shareholders' equity interest in the corporation were to be adjusted to reflect the market value of listed investments and the directors' valuation of unlisted investments the total value of each Rand Selection share would have been 2039 cents at 30th September 1974 compared with 2151 cents at the previous year-end. As a result of higher market prices since the financial year end, this value rose to 2321 cents a share on 29th November 1974.

The general investment portfolio of the Rand Selection group at 30th September 1974 had a book value of R268 709 000, an increase over last year of R20 657 000 of which R23 373 000 relates to the inclusion of SIH's own investments this year and the balance of R11 284 000 to net increases in the listed and unlisted investments of R6 020 000 and R5 264 000 respectively. Mortgages and other loans rose by R1 000 000 to R28 402 000 but after exclusion of SIH's share of R2 970 000, the increase of R8 030 000 represents the loans made by the corporation and its other subsidiaries which together with the growth in investments resulted in a R19 314 000 increase in these assets. The rise this year is attributable largely to the increase in interest on loans made to a number of the corporation's existing investments while Rand Selection took up certain rights arising from its present shareholdings and under the corporation's agreement with Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited whereby Rand Selection has the right to participate in Anglo American Corporation's new business. These investments were mainly financed by retained earnings although the sale proceeds of certain investments contributed to the funds available for re-investment. In November 1973 the corporation exchanged its equity interest in The South African Breweries Limited for additional shares in Anglo American Investment Trust Limited.

MINING

At 30th September 1974, the market value of Rand Selection's listed investments was R784 million or 303 per cent higher than book cost, compared with R689 million or 290 per cent greater than book cost at the previous financial year-end. The directors' valuation of unlisted investments is R101 million; 31 per cent higher than the book value of R77 million.

Rand Selection's interest in gold mining continues to form the major part

of its general investment portfolio, representing 68 per cent of the total market value, equivalent to 1444 cents a share; and also provides 60 per cent of the corporation's total general investment income.

The gold mining industry has enjoyed a most successful year despite lower production and rising costs. Total revenue from the industry's gold mining operations increased by R759 million to R2 356 million for the year ended 30th September 1974 while production declined by 9.3 per cent to 785 tons. The drop in production is attributable partly to the mining of lower grade ores but also to the recent labour difficulties. The inflationary pressures on working costs have continued and together with substantial salary and wage increases have resulted in the industry's working costs rising by 26 per cent to R914 million for the year ended 30th September 1974. Working profits increased by 73 per cent to R1 442 million and, after including uranium profits and sundry revenue, the industry's total pre-tax profits at R1 504 million was 72 per cent higher than for the year ended 30th September 1973. Taxation and the State's share of profits, however, were increased by 100 per cent to the same period and absorbed 50 per cent of the total profits.

Anglo American Gold Investment Company Limited (Amgold) remains the corporation's main source of investment income. The higher gold price level resulted in Amgold's and the corporation's direct interests in the gold-mining companies earning substantially higher profits over the past year.

This year Rand Selection's diamond interests provided 10 per cent of its investment income and made up six per cent of the value of its investment portfolio. Strong market conditions during 1973 together with price increases in May and August last year resulted in sales of diamonds by the Central Selling Organisation (CSO) increasing by 40.5 per cent to a record R221 million in 1973. De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited earned record profits last year and its higher dividend distribution benefited Anglo American Investment Trust Limited accordingly. Although the diamond market has been adversely affected by current high interest rates, demand for the less expensive diamonds remains strong and CSO sales rose by 12 per cent to R535 million for the six months to 30th June 1974 compared with the corresponding period last year.

During the past year the demand for platinum and its associated metals has remained firm for both industrial and jewellery uses. However, the market recently has been adversely affected by the present uncertainties in the world economy and fluctuations in demand, particularly in the Japanese jewellery trade, have also occurred. The corporation's platinum interests are mainly held through its indirect interests in Rustenburg Platinum Mines Limited. During the financial year ended 31st August 1974 Rustenburg raised its published price of platinum by U.S.\$32 an ounce to the present level of \$190 while deliveries of platinum to the Ford Motor Company of America contributed to Rustenburg's substantially increased volume of sales and taxed profits.

International events during the past year involving sharply increased crude oil prices and selective embargoes have focused attention on national energy resources and created an upsurge in domestic coal requirements. The developments relating to the coal industry have been regarded largely by investors as a source of high profit margins arising from the controlled pricing system, a situation recently severely aggravated by inflation. A more realistic price structure is essential to enable the industry to meet the higher demand by establishing additional coal mining capacity and to attract the substantial capital investment necessary to implement advanced coal mining techniques, including open-cast mining. The Vereeniging Estates Limited, through which the major part of the corporation's coal interests is held, marginally increased its earnings in 1973 with some improvement being achieved during the first six months of 1974 but dividends remained unchanged.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Rand Selection holds significant interests representing 10 per cent of its general investment portfolio—in companies situated outside South Africa. Charter Consolidated Limited, the United Kingdom-based mining finance company, increased its earnings significantly during the year ended 31st March 1974 with all sections of its operations contributing to these improved results. Anglo American Corporation of Canada Limited had an excellent year in 1973 mainly because of the record profits achieved by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited to which it increased its direct interest to 34.7 per cent.

The major portion of the corporation's copper income is derived from its equity interest in Minerals and Resources Corporation Limited (Minorco), formerly Zambia Anglo American Limited, which through its major investment, a 49.9 per cent interest in Zambia Copper Investments Limited (ZCI), has a significant interest in the Zambian copper mining industry. As a result of higher dividend distributions by the mining companies ZCI declared significantly increased dividends and Minorco benefited accordingly. Earlier this year Minorco acquired an effective 43 per cent equity interest in Trend Exploration Limited, a United States oil and gas exploration company. Furthermore, Minorco acquired from the corporation, in common with other associates, its indirect interest in Engelhard Minerals & Chemicals Corporation (EMC) and received, as consideration, new 'A' ordinary shares in Minorco. EMC continued its remarkable growth and profits which reached record levels in 1973 were further advanced during the first nine months of this year.

INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS

A very high level of activity in the industrial sector was experienced

throughout the year. The corporation's industrial interests, accounting for 11 per cent of its investment portfolio and 13 per cent of its investment income, are mainly represented by its holding in Anglo American Industrial Corporation Limited (Amic). Amic had an excellent year in 1973 with profits rising to record levels and this trend has continued this year. These improved results were largely attributable to record profits by Amic's major subsidiaries, Scaw Metals Limited and Bort International Limited, with S.A. Forest Investments Limited also contributing significantly to the growth this year. After declaring its maiden dividend in 1973, Highveld Steel and Vanadium Corporation Limited increased its dividend distribution this year and is embarking on a significant expansion scheme. The corporation's other industrial investments have generally performed well.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The acquisition of Schlesinger Insurance and Institutional Holdings Limited (SIH) has led to the corporation's direct involvement in the financial services industry. SIH, now a wholly-owned subsidiary of the corporation, has significant interests in companies within the life insurance, property development, banking and finance fields in Southern Africa and the United Kingdom. SIH's most important source of profit remains the life insurance activities of the group which accounted for 62 per cent of SIH's profit in the 1974 financial year. During the past year the life insurance industry has had to contend with declining investment values at a time when every effort was required to protect policy holders against the effects of inflation. However, short-term fluctuations in investment values do not have a material significance for life insurance companies whose investments must, of necessity, be geared to provide stability and profitability in the long term. During these difficult times the strength and growth of SIH's principal operating entity, the African Eagle Life group, has been evidenced. At 30th September 1974 this life insurance group had a R233 million investment portfolio, including a large proportion of property investments, against which the life insurance funds totalled R29 million. By comparison, at 30th June 1973 investments and the life insurance funds amounted to R276 million and R265 million respectively. I am confident that we can look forward to continued growth particularly as African Eagle Life is well placed to play a major role in the business provided by the economic development of all South Africans.

It has been a very difficult year for the banking industry. The high rate of economic activity during a period of rapidly inflating costs together with the repayment of overseas borrowings arising from the high interest rates abroad applied a tremendous pressure on the banks' ability to grant additional credit. In these circumstances, the lending ability of the banks was impaired by the loss of liquidity through the balance of payments and by the stringent liquid asset requirements.

However, capital appears to be flowing back into the country as a result of the recent trend in falling world interest rates and the fact that South African borrowers have been encouraged by the authorities to seek funds abroad. The outlook for the balance of payments now seems much improved, and there are indications that the financial climate will be easier in the foreseeable future, with a consequent alleviation of the tight position of the banks.

In common with other smaller banks, Western Bank Limited has been adversely affected by the difficulties experienced this year and in the circumstances its increased profits for the year ended 30th June 1974 were a most commendable achievement.

PROPERTY INVESTMENTS

The corporation's interests in property are largely held through its investment in Anglo American Properties Limited (Amprop) and Sorec Limited (Sorec). As expected, Amprop's results deteriorated further during the year ended 28th February 1974 primarily because of the heavy interest burden and the low return presently being received on completed projects which account for a significant proportion of Amprop's assets. An improvement in this situation, coupled with the revenue earning potential of new projects yet to be completed, should establish a sound investment and revenue base in due course.

SIH has a substantial equity interest in Sorec which specialises in developing and holding property, mainly commercial, for the balance of payments and to its South African portfolio of completed buildings and major projects under construction, (which include the African Eagle Centre and Kine Centre in Johannesburg). Sorec has property interests in the United Kingdom. Sorec's profit growth has continued with record earnings being achieved during the year ended 30th June 1974.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

During the past year the economic fortunes of the western world have been beset with problems and uncertainties which have, in contrast, favourably influenced the international importance of gold and the continued high price augurs well for our significant interests in this metal. South Africa has inevitably been affected by world trends but the country has nevertheless experienced a record growth rate. A levelling off is expected in 1975 but the longer term outlook for the economy and consequently the Corporation's industrial, financial and property interests gives every reason for encouragement. The acquisition of SIH this year has provided the Corporation with a broader income and asset base and with its solid foundation of gold and mining financial investments I am confident that the Corporation can expect further growth in the years ahead.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Record order book at ICL: 'legal doubt' on Plessey director post

Giving news of an extraordinary meeting for January 22 on Plessey Co's right to appoint a second director, Mr T. C. Hudson, chairman of International Computers (Holdings), in his annual statement, reports also the order book at record levels.

Orders booked for the year (even allowing for inflation) and the unfulfilled order book are the best ever, practically covering the whole of the current year's output. Encouraging also is the fact that new orders in Britain continued to grow in spite of the general economic uncertainty. One aspect is that orders from its overseas subsidiaries grew at a faster rate

so that the share of exports in its total business continues to increase. Notable exceptions, however, were Germany and Switzerland.

While, in the present bleak economic outlook, a forecast is not hazarded, Mr Hudson sees prospects for the current year helped by a strong product line and a healthy order book.

There is some legal doubt, he adds, on Plessey's right to nominate a second director. Contrary advice has been received by both ICL and Plessey. But the board believes that the cessation of this right occurred simply because of a technicality.

Interest and costs weigh on Negretti but S. Hoffnung rising but cautious

The inability to absorb all cost increases, coupled with higher interest charges to finance a larger volume of trade, cut the taxable profits of Negretti & Zambra, scientific instrument makers, from £131,000 to £91,000 in the six months to September 30.

Although the group order book remains high there is some slackening of demand in some sectors and second-half profits are not expected to match the £257,000 earned last time. The total, therefore, will be some way short of the £380,000 achieved in 1973-74.

One brighter feature is that net accounting for relief for increases in stock values has been taken in the figures and the benefit of this will be "considerable". Earnings were down from 4.4p to 2.5p a share and once again there is no interim dividend, none having been paid in recent years.

Big stakeholder in J. Bright

Although no written confirmation has been received, it is believed that the John Bright Group of spinners and weavers has been told verbally by Mr John Whitaker that he holds about 27 per cent of the equity.

Last month this group announced a 96 per cent jump in taxable profits to £568,000, on turnover up from £6.44m to £7.28m.

Bad half for Vinten

A fresh setback has been suffered by Vinten Group, photographic specialists. They slid into a loss in the half to September 30 of £43,000 (against a profit of £112,000) and the interim payment is about halved to 1.65p. Turnover was only £821,000 (against £1.99m).

Chief reason for the drop in output was a difficulty in obtaining key supplies, plus the problem of financing the high cost of replacing stocks. The loss is expected to be more than retrieved in the second half.

Philip Harris cheer

Makers of educational scientific equipment Philip Harris (Holdings) advanced further at midways and the full-time outlook is good. For the half-year to September 30 pre-tax profits climbed 36 per cent to £242,000 on turnover up from £2.11m to £2.65m. Earnings a share went up to 1.67p (7.7p) while the interim payment is 1.79p against 1.71p.

Berisford deal off

The agreed £1.35m bid by S. & W. Berisford's Dutch subsidiary, Cats International for Amsterdam Rubber has fallen through. Berisford said in London yesterday that the offer, all cash, failed to gain the necessary acceptances by the closing date. It has therefore been allowed to lapse.

Business appointments

Mr Geoffrey Kent, who becomes chairman and managing director of John Player & Sons tomorrow, has been elected a member of the board of Imperial Group. He has also been elected to the Imperial Tobacco board.

Stock markets Trading still quiet

Many brokers and investors stayed on the sidelines yesterday and the stock market remained a ghostly place. Only 2,801 bargains were traded and it was simply a matter of keeping their books level before the end of the year that the FT index was better than the FT index 3.4 points and the FT index 0.3 gain managed by 14 points in the morning.

All eyes turned to the gold price which was held in check by the gold price in the United States this morning. But the gold price just failed to reach \$200 as profit-takers quickly moved in.

Gold shares went the same way. Leaders like Anglo-American Gold, Vaal Reef, St Helena and Johannes rose by around 100p to begin with, but sellers moved in to leave them narrowly mixed.

Anglo-American finished 7p up at 337p, with Johannes rising 5p to 131p, but Vaal Reef slipped 1p to 134p and West Britfontein 11p to 141p. Consolidated Goldfields fell 4p to 224p.

By contrast Marielvale, Grootvlei and Vlakfontein ended the day with useful gains, though Union Corporation shed 9p to 461p with General Mining holding up against the bid from Gold Fields of South Africa.

Blue chips managed welcome gains. Anglo-American finished 7p up at 337p, with Johannes rising 5p to 131p, but Vaal Reef slipped 1p to 134p and West Britfontein 11p to 141p. Consolidated Goldfields fell 4p to 224p.

Elsewhere Reckitt & Colman, and Bealco Rand were better, and were store shares on talk of good business. John Bright bargained to 17p on news of a nearby per cent stake built up by Mr John Whitaker.

Some City people felt that the Jessel Securities stake in Johnson & Firth Brown had now been placed with institutional investors. Jessel Securities denied this. Jessel's AGM takes place today, the last day it can be held legally, but it will be at once adjourned.

The property sector was dull. Gills were quiet, with interest clearing by year-end considered. The Dow Jones average rose 1.79 points to 1,171.10.

Latest dividends

Table with columns: Company, Dividend, Yield, etc. Includes Anglo-American, Consolidated Goldfields, etc.

Wall Street

New York, Dec 30.—Stock prices closed moderately lower on the New York stock exchange today as investors sought to put finishing touches on their portfolios for the end of 1974. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.09 to 1,171.10.

Cocoa 4 cents down

New York, Dec 30.—Cocoa futures closed with losses ranging from 1/2 to 1 1/2 cents on the New York stock exchange today as investors sought to put finishing touches on their portfolios for the end of 1974.

Philip Harris cheer

Makers of educational scientific equipment Philip Harris (Holdings) advanced further at midways and the full-time outlook is good.

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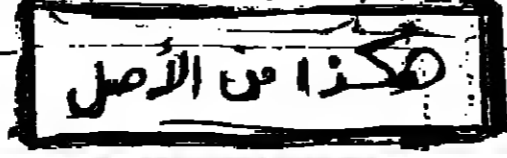
Business appointments

Mr Geoffrey Kent, who becomes chairman and managing director of John Player & Sons tomorrow, has been elected a member of the board of Imperial Group.

Mr Peter Wordie has been made a director of Glasgow Stockholders Trust.

The 33rd Annual General Meeting of Rand Selection Corporation Limited will be held in Johannesburg at 44 Main Street on Friday, January 24th, 1975.

Copies of this review and the annual financial statements are obtainable from the London office of the company at 40 Holborn Viaduct, EC1P 1AJ or the office of the Transfer Secretaries, Charter Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box 102, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EO



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

December cocoa plunges £88.75

There was a dramatic fall in the December position on the London COCOA futures market yesterday. After trading at £82.50...

Commodities

There were 238 lots of fresh cocoa beans making 1,415 tons and 253 lots of cocoa beans...

The Times Share Indices

Table showing share indices for various sectors like All-Share, Industrial, and Financial.

Foreign Exchange

Dollar rallies

The dollar rallied on foreign exchange yesterday following the German Bundesbank's relatively heavy buying of the currency.

Spot Position of Sterling

Table showing spot position of sterling with columns for Bid, Offer, and various bank rates.

Money Market Rates

Table showing money market rates for various terms like 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months.

Recent Issues

Table listing recent issues of shares and bonds with details on price and interest.

Forward Levels

Table showing forward levels for various currencies and terms.

Discount Market

An expected shortage of day-to-day funds in the discount market yesterday finally proved not so bad...

Eurosyndicat

The Eurosyndicat index of European share prices was up 0.25 per cent on December 26 against 108.69 a week earlier.

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION GROUP. ORANGE FREE STATE GOLD MINING COMPANY. For the purpose of the annual general meeting...

RABO MINES LIMITED. (Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa). Further to the dividend notice advertised in the press on the 10th December 1974...

Why Assoc

Enggr backs the Tories

Explaining his board's plan to pay £7,500 to the Conservative Party, Mr Henry Moore, chairman of Associated Engineering, says in his review that one of the most crucial problems of national industrial life today is the conflict between 'creeping nationalization' and the encouragement of corporate enterprise, thrift and personal independence.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Table listing authorized units, insurance, and offshore funds with columns for Bid, Offer, and Yield.

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Table listing authorized units, insurance, and offshore funds with columns for Bid, Offer, and Yield.

Highlands & Lowlands Para Rubber Company Limited

At the Extraordinary General Meeting of Highlands & Lowlands this afternoon, shareholders approved the proposals for the transfer of the tax and exchange control residence of the Highlands & Lowlands Group from the United Kingdom to Malaysia.

INTERIM STATEMENT

Table showing interim statement results for the half-year ended 30th September 1974.

S. Hoffnung & Co. Limited

Table showing interim results for S. Hoffnung & Co. Limited for the half-year ended 30th September 1974.

Value of new issues

Value of new issues up sharply this year. Despite dismal stock exchange conditions, the amount of new issues raised by the issue of shares in the United Kingdom during 1974 was more than double the 1973 level...

Chloride expand in US

The Chloride Group has moved into the United States market by acquiring the assets of Agal Equipment for about £1.6m. Chloride already has a strong presence in the United States after its purchase of Conrex Corporation, now named Chloride Inc.

Bank Base Rates

Table showing bank base rates for various banks like Barclays Bank, NIBC, and others.

Bank Base Rates

Table showing bank base rates for various banks like NIBC, C. Hoare & Co., and others.

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Notes

(1) The results for the half-year ended 30th September 1974, have been converted into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling on that date. The change in the rates since 31st March 1974 (including the devaluation of the Australian \$ on 25th September 1974) has had the effect of reducing the profit before tax by £159,000.

